

Tomorrow

Balancing... Chancellor Nigel Lawson talks exclusively to Kenneth Fleet and Frances Williams about public spending, taxation and the economy.



...the books
Sir John Plumb reviews Robert Rhodes James's biography of Albert, Prince Consort. Plus Woodrow Wyatt on Woodhouse, Andrew Sinclair on fiction and Piers Brendon on John Campbell's biography of F. E. Smith.

Words... Michael Hamlyn reports on the first day of the Commonwealth summit conference in Delhi.

...and pictures
Profile of John Piper, artist, as he approaches his eightieth birthday.

Benn seeks by-election nomination

Mr Wedgwood Benn will be a candidate for the Labour Party nomination in the Chesterfield by-election, it was confirmed yesterday.

Supporters of Mr Benn in the local party had contacted him on Monday night after reports in the local evening newspaper had suggested that he might not seek the nomination. He told them that he would accept a nomination.

Grenada leader

Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, told his closest advisers that his closest advisers that Mr Alistair McIntyre has finally accepted the job of head of Government and will arrive on the island on Sunday.

Salpeter fire, page 5

Denktas snub

VIP facilities at Heathrow airport were denied to Mr Rauf Denktaş, leader of the break-away Turkish Cypriot state, when he arrived from New York on a two-day visit.

EEC diplomacy, page 6

Mortgage blow

The Abbey National, which has broken with the building society cartel, decided against cutting its mortgage rate from 11.25 per cent.

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Falklands victim

The family of a soldier killed in the Falklands has been told that he was a victim of British shellfire, not Argentine action.

Page 3

Lynch stays

Monte Lynch, the Surrey batsman, has ignored the advice of his country and is staying with the rebel West Indian tourists in South Africa, thus putting his cricket future at risk.

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Leader page, 11
Letters: On investment, from Professor W. H. Butler, religious experience, from the Rev Dr K. Slack.

Leading articles: Germany and the West, Housing policy, Agricultural tenancies. Features, pages 8, 9, 10. The cars that ate our towns, by Sir Colin Buchanan, a Londoner touches the heart of Poland. All-in war: Spectrum design for high living; The Wednesday Page: private medicine's hidden extras. Obituaries, page 12. Professor Brenda Ryman, Mrs Naomi Thomas.

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Ministers criticize absent Thatcher over spending cuts

● Cabinet Ministers complained last night that they were kept in ignorance of the consequences of their recent decisions to cut public spending. And, as the Prime Minister arrived in India to meet other Commonwealth leaders, two Cabinet members made speeches heavily critical of her views and attitudes.

● Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State

for Social Services, challenged the belief of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and of Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor, that public spending would have to be cut because of a long-term increase in the number of pensioners.

● Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, in a wider-ranging speech, generally disparaged the Government's values and achievements.

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Cabinet ministers have complained that they were left in complete ignorance of the political consequences of some of the decisions taken at the November 10 Downing Street meeting on public expenditure targets.

It was revealed last night, for example, that Mr Norman Fowler's £230m package of cuts in housing assistance and rate rebates had been approved by ministers without the benefit of background briefing or detailed Cabinet discussion.

Ministers have since been startled to learn that a married man with a gross income of £135 a week, including child benefit, with one child at school and another child of 17 living at home, will lose rent rebate of £6.23 a week and rate rebate of £1.88 from next April, a net loss of more than £8 a week, on a rent of £25 a week, with £8 a week rates.

Those calculations, supplied by the London Housing Aid Centre, were last night confirmed, though not volunteered, by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The centre also estimated that a single pensioner on an occupational and retirement pension of £4,000 (£76.92 a week) with a rent of £18 a week and rates of £5 a week, will lose £4.52 benefit from April, a reduction of nearly 6 per cent on gross income.

It is understood that one minister protested at the time of last week's meeting that decisions were being made on the basis of prior agreements between the Treasury and spending departments. Ministers in other departments were being presented with bald, global totals, which had little meaning.

The point was being made

Fowler challenges argument for cuts

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, last night shot down one of the key arguments used by Mrs Margaret Thatcher and the Chancellor of the Exchequer for long-term spending cuts: the prospective increase in the pensioner population.

He said in a speech in Brent north London: "The numbers of people over 65 - who will have risen by more than one-third over the past 20 years - will now remain more or less stable as a proportion of the population until about 2010."

But Mrs Thatcher last night cited the potential "burden" of population changes, in arguing for long-term spending restraint, when she commented on July 28, in an ITV interview: "By the time people like me are old age pensioners, there are going to be more than there are now."

The Prime Minister, who is 58, said: "You always have to look at the burden of your social services on the working population because everything comes from them."

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said in a London Weekend Television interview on Wednesday: "There is constant pressure on the ageing population."

He added: "There are fundamental trends in the economy and in society which, if we are not careful, are going to lead to a resurgence of public expenditure in the years ahead."

But Mr Fowler last night took his challenge to Mrs Thatcher and Mr Lawson further than the facts alone, arguing that social

The West's failures - Walker

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, used the occasion of a lecture in memory of President John F. Kennedy last night to indicate shortcomings in the present British and American governments.

Speaking at the Oxford Union he lamented "the failure of governments over the last 20 years to address the fundamental issues of our generation."

It was profoundly depressing, he said, that the problems confronted by the world had hardly changed in the 20 years since Kennedy's death, which "ushered in an era of drift and hopelessness that had intensified as the years passed."

Mr Walker attained higher office under Mr Edward Heath than he has held in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet, in which he has seen himself as a licensed dissenter.

The dissent, more often implied than pressed, has ranged over most areas of social and economic policy in a series of speeches at measured intervals.

In his Oxford speech Mr Walker praised President Kennedy and his murdered younger brother Robert for political ambitions and values which, he repeatedly implied, were lacking in Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan.

He condemned today's governments for failing to meet the challenges of the arms race, the division between rich and poor nations, the environment and the inner cities.

Continued on page 2, col 7

Commons clash on Exchange exemption Bill

Finance and Industry, page 17

A political argument erupted yesterday as the Government moved to halt a court action against the Stock Exchange by exempting its rules from the Restrictive Practices Act. Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman for trade and industry, said that such a blatant ministerial intervention during a judicial process was unprecedented.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, presented the Stock Exchange Exemption Bill for its second reading.

Parliament, page 4

Greek ship in Gulf hit by Iraqi 'Exocet'

A Greek merchant vessel sank in the Gulf after an Iraqi missile attack. All nineteen crew, eleven Greeks, six Sri Lankans and two Indians - were saved.

Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence Service reported that the Antigoni was struck by an Exocet on Monday while leaving the Iranian port of Bushire. The Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine would not confirm that the missile was an Exocet.

The crew abandoned ship in a lifeboat. Later, there was a second explosion and the ship sank.

According to the owners, the Stravos Shipping Company, of Piraeus, the crew was safe in Athens today.

The company understood that several other merchant ships, but no Iranian naval vessels, were hit.

The ship was carrying a cargo of steel. The Greek ministry said that she was travelling in convoy at the time of the attack.

Earlier this month, another Greek vessel, the Avra, was also hit by an Iraqi rocket in the Gulf.

No peace for Greenham fauna

By a Staff Reporter

The Greenham Common peace women may not have been the only ones disturbed by work associated with the arrival of the cruise missiles last week.

As with many areas of land owned by the Ministry of Defence, the Berkshire base is important for the flora and fauna for which it provides a home. There is some concern about the south side of the base, which was necessary to improve security arrangements, may have disturbed the habitat of the Purple Emperor butterfly, which had been recorded on the base during the two previous summers.

This was one of the points which emerged yesterday when

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, opened an exhibition to mark the 10th anniversary of the ministry's work to conserve nature on more than 500,000 acres which it owns or leases.

A brochure produced to mark the anniversary notes that the scrub clearances at Greenham do not appear to have affected the nightingales since six were heard singing on April 17.

It also records that it is hoped to maintain adequate environment for the Purple Emperor and that the new tunnel-like shelters which accommodate the missiles will be covered over with beech plants rather than grass which will encourage the flora and fauna.

Although concern has been expressed about damage to archaeological sites on Salisbury Plain caused by the army's training activities, nature seems to be quite resilient.

On the tank training ranges at Bovington in Dorset, deep trenches created by the tanks have been colonized by the rare Deptford warbler, and at the firing ranges near Lulworth Cove wild cabbages have sprung up in the holes created by tank shells, and this is thought to be the only site in southern England where the wild cabbage is found.

The prize for audacity, however, goes to a pair of stone curlews which regularly nest at RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, within 25 metres of the main runway from which the aircraft constantly operate.



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis arriving in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, for observance of the twentieth anniversary of President Kennedy's death. Family gathers, back page.

Print union leader hints at nationwide stoppage

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The first major confrontation between a union and the Government's employment legislation, coupled with the prospect of a shutdown of the printing industry throughout the country, moved closer yesterday after leaders of the National Graphical Association (NGA) decided unanimously not to pay a £50,000 fine imposed in the High Court for unlawful secondary picketing.

Union leaders will go before the TUC General Council today to explain their defiance of the law and to call for "financial, industrial, and moral support" from the trade unions if the court moves to sequester its funds and assets which amount to more than £10m.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, said after his union had decided not to pay the fine, that escalation of the dispute if there was sequestration of union funds, "would not necessarily be confined to Fleet Street. A complete stoppage of the printing industry is a possibility."

NGA fathers of chapels (shop stewards) from Fleet Street and Manchester national newspaper offices are to meet in London tomorrow to decide whether to involve national newspapers in the dispute which started with the dismissal of six printing workers at a Stockport weekly newspaper group.

Talks aimed at settling the

Stockport dispute, where the union has been engaged in mass picketing contrary to the 1980 Employment Act, are expected to be reconvened under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service either tomorrow or Friday.

Mr Wade said last night that the union's legal advice was that they would have to pay the £50,000 fine before the end of the week, or face being held in contempt of court. He denied that the union was aware of the existence of an anonymous benefactor prepared to pay the fine on the union's behalf.

The case represents the first time that a union has been fined under the employment legislation and is likely to be a source of deep controversy within the TUC whose official policy is not to encourage unions or their members to break the law. The union movement appears to be committed, however, under the terms of a decision by a special

TUC conference at Wembley last year, to giving financial support to unions who fall foul of the legislation.

Previously, in the same Stockport dispute, members of the National Union of Journalists decided at the last minute not to defy an injunction halting their secondary action.

Announcing the national council's decision, Mr Wade said that it was "in line with the NGA's policy of non-compliance with the Government's Employment Act legislation, determined by its 1982 biennial delegate meeting."

He continued: "We have been thrust into the front line of the fight against the Tebbit legislation. We hope the decision of the national council will inspire other unions on the TUC general council to give us maximum support and to maximize the fight against the Tebbit legislation."

"We hope that this will be the catalyst to encourage support from the whole of the trade union movement."

That national council, and full time officials of the union, had been warned by their lawyers that they could ultimately face imprisonment for continued defiance of the court decision, but Mr Wade said: "My view is that nobody will be looking to create another Peptonville Five or NGA 45."

SAS are added to border patrol

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Extra troops were drafted into the border area of Northern Ireland yesterday as Mr James Prior rejected security demands from the Official Unionists, including selective internment against the political leaders of Provisional Sinn Féin.

Undercover police and the SAS were also deployed along the border to protect isolated communities and particularly seven churches as security forces fear the murders at the Protestant Hall near Darkley, co. Armagh, may mark a new development in terrorist tactics.

The increased security is also aimed at halting the movement of terrorists, weapons and explosives across the border, particularly in the south Armagh area.

As Mr Prior met a delegation from the Official Unionist Party to discuss security, the leaders of Ireland's four main churches visited the homes of the three church elders killed at the Mountain Lodge Protestant Assembly two days ago.

The Official Unionists also demanded more permanent checkpoints along the border and restrictions on access to the media by organizations like Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mr Prior told the delegation that two companies, about 250 men, were being sent from the Army's existing 9,500 troops in the Province to reinforce border areas. All Army leave has also been cancelled.

During the two hours of talks the possibility of the 28 Official Unionist members reversing their decision to withdraw from the Assembly was not discussed.

In the Assembly, the party was criticized by the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who said that if Stormont closed, it would never reopen.

His party, who with the Alliance Party will attempt to keep it operating, condemned the Official Unionists for doing the Provisional IRA's work.

Leading politicians in the Province have been warned their lives may now be at risk, but security forces are opposed to saturating the border area with troops. They believe that is what the terrorists want as it would alienate the Roman Catholic population.

Security forces know that it is impossible to protect every church in the south Armagh area because they are very isolated and only yards from the border.

Hundreds of mourners, including many who were in the Parkley hall during the attack, attended the funeral yesterday of Mr Victor Cunningham, aged 39, one of the murdered church elders.

Uproar at Brandt, victory for Kohl

From Michael Bixton, Bonn

The historic Bundestag debate on Nato missiles ended last night after two days of sharp exchanges with the West German Government sure of a solid majority but almost all the Social Democrats opposing the imminent deployment of the Pershing missiles.

In contrast to the noisy demonstrations and confrontations between 4,000 anti-nuclear protesters and police on Monday, the atmosphere around the Bundestag was notably less tense yesterday. Only about 300 people gathered at the barricades set up around Parliament, and the police presence was scaled down, by late afternoon about 700 people had been detained.

Inside the Bundestag, however, there were angry scenes when the Greens protested at the arrest of 15 parliamentary helpers. Detained for wearing scarves with anti-Pershing slogans on them in the banned zone around Parliament. The Greens demanded a postponement of the debate and a number walked out when this was refused.

Uproar also drowned some of the speech of Herr Willy Brandt, the Social Democratic Party Chairman, after he had called the Christian Democratic Union secretary "The Government's hired slanders," because of his earlier description of the SPD as Moscow's fifth column.

Herr Brandt, the principal opposition speaker yesterday, insisted that his party's opposition to deployment was not directed against friendship with the United States nor the Western Alliance. "But we will not be cornered by Reagan," he said, and he accused the President of having an *idée fixe* in seeing the deployment of Pershing missiles as more important than the removal of the Soviet SS20s.

He said deployment would have a destabilizing effect in West Germany. Both Washington and Bonn would thereby contribute to a marked reduction in people's general approval of the Western alliance. He called instead for a security partnership between East and West, a continuation of détente and an effective, defensive strategy that prevented war.

Earlier Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, had repeated Bonn's determination to go ahead with deployment. He said Chancellor Kohl's Government had done what a German government alone could not do to protect German interests. Moscow could not be allowed to have a nuclear monopoly of more than 250 missiles aimed at Western Europe.

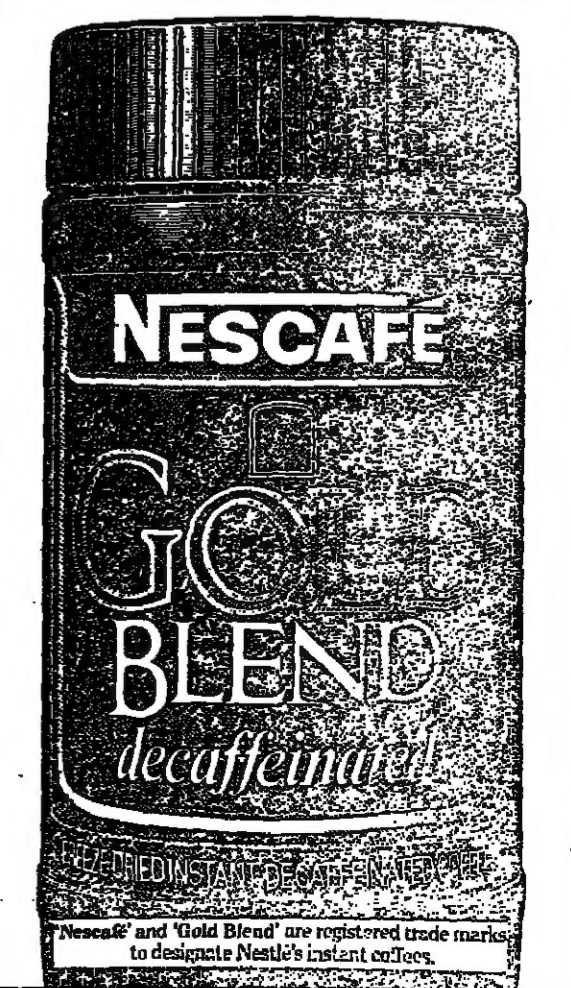
Herr Wörner gave a warning that the protests against deployment might lead the United States in the long run to turn away from Europe. And he emphasized, to loud applause from the Government's supporters, that the American allies and their soldiers were welcome in the Federal Republic.

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister who was also a member of the previous Schmidt government, sharply attacked Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD parliamentary leader, for his volte-face in deployment, saying that he had been one of the keenest advocates of the Nato decision in the previous government.

Dr Kohl has already said that the Pershings may start to arrive in American bases in southern Germany from today onwards. Sources here, however, were suggesting yesterday that the missiles would be transported in sections.

Nuclear debate, page 16
Leading article, page 11

There's only one decaffeinated coffee that tastes as good as Gold Blend.



INLA informer says police turned blind eye to his crimes

A terrorist "supergrass" said yesterday that Special Branch detectives ignored his criminal activity in return for information on suspects.

The Irish National Liberation Army member, known as witness A, also alleged that detectives allowed him to keep the proceeds from armed robberies - as well as paying him £25 a week.

The allegations were made as the informer, who has implicated 18 people on 75 terrorist charges, was being cross-examined by defence lawyers at Belfast Crown Court.

At first the man refused to identify the people the Special Branch wanted information about.

Several times after he was asked to say what names detectives had put to him he replied: "I don't wish to."

But Lord Justice Gibson said he would write down the names, he said: "OK I'll tell the truth - it was Gerard Steenson."

Steenson, from Belfast, is one of the 18 defendants. On the informer's evidence he is accused of soliciting him to murder Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Upper Bann.

Steenson is also charged with firearms offences and membership of the INLA.

Later witness A agreed with the defence that he had been reluctant to answer the question because of the obvious conclusion the court would have drawn from his answer. Defence counsel said: "I would suggest that the reason is obvious; that you did not want to say it because you realized that the conclusion the court would or could draw was that you in fact were setting Steenson up at the behest of the police."

The man replied: "That would be right."

The defence counsel was not named for security reasons.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

NCB shelves plan to impose pay offer

Coal board leaders have shelved plans to impose the six per cent pay offer on miners after coalfield reports showing that members of the National Union of Mineworkers are working harder in order to make up money they are losing through the national overtime ban now in its fourth week.

Mr Ian MacGregor, the chairman of the National Coal Board, and other senior board officials are said to be "relaxed" about the impact of the overtime ban. They have also put on ice plans to ballot all 190,000 miners over the heads of the NUM.

The board yesterday met the full union executive in one of the twice-yearly discussion meetings on the state of the industry. It became clear after the two-hour meeting that union hopes of winning agreement from the board for a joint approach to the Government for further assistance to the industry are likely to be dashed.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, indicated after the meeting that the union wanted action from the Government on a wide range of issues, including writing off the NCB's huge loan debt, controls on coal imports and extra grants to the industry along the lines of European competitors.

Spending inquiry by police

The alleged irregular spending of over £28,000 by the Chief Constable of Derbyshire on luxury fittings in his office at police headquarters is to be fully investigated by the county treasurer, it was decided at a special meeting yesterday.

Derbyshire County Council policy and finance committees unanimously agreed to request the chief constable, Mr Alfred Parrish, to cooperate with the treasurer, who was told to carry out an audit investigation to be submitted at a later date to the police committee.

The findings were alleged to include a folding partition costing more than £3,000, a desk at over £1,000 and two armchairs costing almost £600 each.

Christmas kiss may cost more this year

The traditional Christmas kiss under the mistletoe will be more expensive this year. When the first of the season's holly and mistletoe sales was held yesterday at Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester, prices for mistletoe reached £40 a pair, believed to be a record.

Holly and Christmas tree prices seem likely to be about the same as last year. Yesterday first quality Christmas trees sold up to 60p a foot.

Shake-up of British tourist boards

The British government has ordered a shake-up of the network of British tourist boards in an attempt to boost efficiency and promote Britain's image abroad, it was announced yesterday.

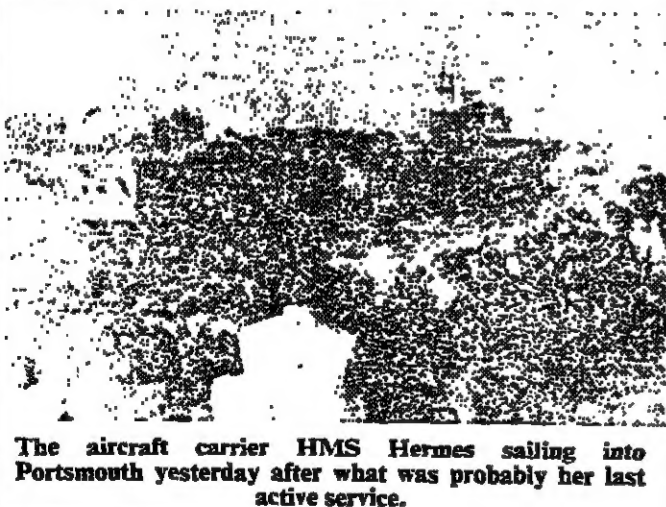
A leading travel industry executive, Mr Duncan Black, chairman of Cathay Pacific Airways, is to take over as head of the British Tourist Authority. Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State for Industry with responsibility for tourism told the House of Commons.

The authority has been told to hand over its remaining responsibilities within the United Kingdom to the national boards of England, Wales and Scotland "so it may concentrate on its prime responsibility of promoting Britain overseas."

Mr Black, who is 57, and a member of the Hongkong Tourist Board, will also take over as chairman of the English board when its current head Mr Michael Montague leaves the post.

"The Government believes the rationalization of BTA and English Tourist Board activities could best occur under a single chairman," Mr Lamont said.

"Mr Black will examine the possibilities for further collaboration and the possibility of a merger of the two bodies." He would take over the BTA next April from its retiring chief, Sir Henry Marking.



The aircraft carrier HMS Hermes sailing into Portsmouth yesterday after what was probably her last active service.

Rail cuts too deep, watchdog body says

By Michael Bailey Transport Editor

Rail services throughout Britain are being heavily cut to save money without the odium of line closures, the rail users' watchdog body alleged yesterday.

East Anglia, Southern Region, Yorkshire and the West Midlands are hit particularly by reductions in evening, weekend, early morning and late night services and more substantial savings are planned when the new 1984 timetables come into operation next May, the Central Transport Consultative Committee said.

On Inter-City services, rolling stock has been cut so drastically that there is massive overcrowding. With poor punctuality arising from defective high-speed locomotives, there is a danger of "destroying the very product BR are trying to promote", Mrs Alison Munro, the committee's chairman, said at a London press conference.

Inter-City's target is to reduce rolling stock by 40 per cent by 1983 to reduce costs, Mrs Munro said. That was resulting in serious overcrowding, standing in trains, fewer direct services between cities and more inconvenient changes for passengers.

The committee was concerned at the tough new government guidelines for British Rail, bringing forward a grant reduction of nearly £200m by two years to 1986. Mrs Munro said. That may not allow enough time for new investment to be installed to achieve the necessary savings and costs would have to be reduced by reducing services.

"BR want to get more efficient, and we and the Government want them to be more efficient," Mrs Munro said. "But they are going down that road very fast, and there are enormous dangers."

But British Rail last night said there were no plans for drastic reductions in the new timetable next May.

One reason for recent overcrowding on Inter-City trains was the huge success of the Persil cheap travel offer,



The Queen Mother during her visit yesterday to the Royal College of Music, of which she is patron and president (Photograph: Harry Kerr).

Tories will not be rushed into union reforms, minister says

By Our Labour Correspondent

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, made clear last night that the Government would not be rushed into further legislation on trade unions and in particular would withstand pressure from business leaders for the introduction of binding procedural agreements, breach of which by unions would deprive them of immunity from civil action under the law.

He went on: "I do not propose to repeat the experience of the 1971 Industrial Relations Act when employers and unions simply decided that no legally enforceable agreements would be negotiated."

Mr King's reluctance to rush through a fourth stage of trade union legislation, hot on the heels of the Bill now going through Parliament on secret ballots, will disappoint business leaders who have consistently argued that the Government must not be seen to be going "soft" on the unions.

That disappointment was evident in the speech by Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, that British business expected the Government to tackle the question of banning strikes in essential services "without undue delay."

Cruise missiles 'all came on one flight'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The 16 cruise missiles scheduled to become operational in Britain by the end of the year are believed to have arrived in one delivery on November 14.

When Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, told the Commons on that day that the first missiles had arrived at Greenham Common Air Base, he refused to say how many had been delivered.

However, in an interview with the French newspaper *Le Matin* at about midday last Wednesday, which was published on Monday, he is reported as being asked "You now have 16?" and replying "Yes."

In fact, it is thought that they all arrived two days earlier.

Higher levels of conventional armed force would be acceptable to church opinion in Britain if that was the price of phasing out nuclear weapons, the British Council of Churches decided at its assembly yesterday.

The British Council of Churches was one of the first church bodies to advocate unilateralism, urging the end of a nuclear role in 1967 in the interests of non-proliferation, and four years earlier adopting a "no first-use" position.

Its decision are not binding on member churches, however.

A Rembrandt is 'lost'

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's has mislaid a Rembrandt drawing accepted for the nation by the Treasury in lieu of tax and allocated to Manchester City Art Gallery.

The gallery had hoped to display *Moyses and the Burning Bush* when Lord Gower, Minister for the Arts, visits it tomorrow - but Christie's cannot find the drawing.

The work came from the estate of Miss Asphodel Fleischmann and was valued at £13,000.

The drawing was offered at auction in March, 1982, but failed to sell. Christie's estimated it at £20,000 to £30,000, but it was bought in at £13,000.

Its acceptance and allocation were announced on July 8.

The gallery tried to collect it a week later and last week. Christie's would not comment yesterday.

Elephant leaps from £300 to £15,120

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A very cracked and glued, but richly decorative Japanese porcelain figure of an elephant was purchased last summer in the South of England for less than £300 sold at Christie's yesterday for £15,120. It is a kakemono model probably dating from the Tenwa-Genroku period (1681-1703) and was bought on this occasion by Imazumi, a Japanese dealer.

It is seated with its head and trunk raised in the air and richly decorated in red, blue, green and yellow enamels. It appears to have cracked in the firing and interestingly has gold lacquer repairs which appear to date from the Genroku period.

Christie's morning sale of Chinese works of art made a total of £213,764 with 23 per cent unsold. All the top prices were paid by Japanese dealers.

There was a magnificent Kakemono gourd-shaped vase 43cm high, dated to the Kanbun-Enpo period (1661-1681), which went to Mizumi at £45,360 (estimate £40,000 to £60,000) and a Christian folding lectern of around 1600 decorated in black and gold lacquer with mother-of-pearl inlay at £32,400 (estimate £30,000 to £50,000) was sold to Yanagi.

Christie's sale of English and continental glass made a total of £79,436 with 14 per cent unsold. It contained a generous jerobeam-sized engraved decanter with the royal arms of George III and Queen Charlotte which went to Delomonte at £4,752 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000).

The second day of Sotheby's sale of illustrated books concentrated on press books and children's publications and proved popular with a total of £91,555 and 8 per cent unsold. A 1902 first edition of Beatrix Potter's classic *The Tailor of Gloucester* sold for £1,012 (estimate £300 to £400).

The earliest printed paper cut-out marionette sheet ever seen by Sotheby's expert secured £286 (estimate £125 to £175). The sheet contains the arms, body and legs from which to make up a smart early eighteenth century youth with a sash of flowers.

Consultants 'rigging' waiting lists to win more cash

By Thomson Practice

Some hospital consultants are deliberately keeping patients waiting for treatment in order to win a bigger share of National Health Service cash allocations, a consultant surgeon said last night.

Their waiting lists are rigged artificially high as a lever to obtain more resources, and also to gain more private practice, according to Mr Reginald Elson, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

He was speaking in an interview on "Calendar", which was screened last night and which was concerned with the state of the NHS.

He said it was a dreadful indictment that many patients who should be receiving NHS treatment were instead having "to reach for their last penny, almost, in order to be seen privately."

Mr Elson claimed that because the length of waiting lists was such a crucial yardstick in determining where Health Service cash should be spent, they were rigged at an artificially high level.

The worst criticism I have heard of the waiting lists is that consultants use them to gain private practice," he said. But while some consultants did that, the more general reason was to win more resources.

"If the waiting list is large this is one of the most potent weapons in the competition for obtaining more resources. I think you're very wrong if you allow your waiting list to become unmanageable."

Mr Elson's claims were discounted by the British Medical Association last night. A spokesman said: "We would be dismayed to think that consultants try to get bigger cash allocations for their departments at the expense of the genuine needs of their patients, and we cannot believe that this is in fact the case."

"We would like to see what facts there are to back this up. If the allegations were true, we would be very concerned. It is also a gross slight to suggest that consultants seek to increase their private practice in this way."

There are occasions when waiting lists in the private sector can be as long, if not longer, than in the National Health Service."

Hopes rise in social work clash

By a Staff Reporter

Hopes of an end to industrial action by 25,000 residential social workers, now in its eleventh week, last night continued to rise as the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

But the main union involved, the National Association of Local Government Officers, will go ahead with its national ballot on stepping up the dispute and bringing further closures of children's and old peoples homes.

Acas issued a statement last night saying that "exploratory talks" held yesterday would continue on Friday.

The talks are being held separately with Mr Keith Sonnet, local government officer for Nalco, and Mr David Thomas, deputy secretary of the employers' body, the Local Authorities' Conditions of Service Advisory Board.

Yesterday's talks were the first move towards negotiation in the dispute, which has led to 1,200 residential workers going on all-out strike in 176 homes, and others maintaining an overtime and admissions ban which has closed many more homes.

Nalco is also planning a national day of action on December 7, the day after its ballot result, when staff are expected to lobby the employers' and union's National Joint Council executive meeting.

Social service leaders have said that many homes closed by the dispute may never reopen.

Mr Kenneth Boyce, joint secretary of the London Directors of Social Services Association, said he did not believe that "any authority already committed to privatization" will reopen homes.

Mr Peter Westland, social services spokesman for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said children "have been moved around like parcels into private and voluntary institutions."

Mr Richard Stewart, leader of Strathclyde regional council, says there is "no doubt" that homes are going to close permanently.

"We have had to put more and more kids into voluntary and private homes, and we are not going to get into shuffling them about. We have got places where there are 40 staff and three kids. We are cutting their own throats, because those places are going to have to shut down."

The dispute is already costing Strathclyde £70,000 a week for 1,000 temporary staff taken on to keep homes open.

Labour efforts to curb Government proposals for increased police powers met a setback yesterday. Attempts to limit stop and search proposals in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill were fought off in the House of Commons committee stage.

The debate concerned one of the most important clauses in the Bill, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, said.

The argument was over the Government's intention to extend to the whole of England and Wales police powers to stop and search, on reasonable suspicion, for stolen goods, and "prohibited" articles.

Labour argued that the police would, as a result, have too sweeping powers. The safeguard of "reasonable suspicion" was not sufficient, and with the wider range of articles for which officers could stop and search, would bring them into increased conflict with the public.

Labour MPs said that a distinction should be drawn between an article which was in itself an offensive weapon and one which was not.

But Mr Hurd said that just as much damage could be done by articles adapted or intended for use as weapons as those weapons which were offensive in themselves.

What constituted reasonable suspicion, Mr Hurd said, must depend on the circumstances of the individual case.

Warning to nurses over pay body

By Our Health Services Correspondent

The review body set up to recommend pay for Britain's 500,000 nurses, midwives and some other health workers may be able only to produce an interim report by next April, Sir John Greenborough, chairman of the review body, said yesterday.

The promise of the review body played a key part in ending the eight-month long health service dispute in November last year, and nurses organizations have been bitterly critical of the government delay in setting up the review body.

Although Sir John, a former president of the Confederation of British Industry and former chairman of Shell UK, has since been in office and working since September, the government has still to announce the other members of the review body.

Sir John said yesterday that he hoped the remaining names would be announced "very shortly". But he gave a warning that the review body would be starting with "a blank sheet of paper", that the issues were extremely important and complex, and that it would be wrong to produce a rushed job.

"We may suddenly find that in the space of four months we may be able to accomplish much more than I would initially expect," he said. But he did not want to raise expectations.

Issues such as differentials for nurses alone were complex enough, but the review body also had to look at the pay of health visitors, midwives and seven professions complementary medicine such as physiotherapists.

It might be that the review body would have to produce an interim report dealing with basic pay and a report later in the year on differentials and other more complex issues.

Nurses' organizations are accusing the Government of deliberately delaying the start of the review body's work to keep next year's pay rise low.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said: "Whatever the reasons for the delay in announcing the members of the review body, it will undoubtedly be seen by many nurses as a deliberate filibuster."

The dispute is already costing Strathclyde £70,000 a week for 1,000 temporary staff taken on to keep homes open.

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Rip to h

By Thomson Practice

Some hospital consultants are deliberately keeping patients waiting for treatment in order to win a bigger share of National Health Service cash allocations, a consultant surgeon said last night.

Their waiting lists are rigged artificially high as a lever to obtain more resources, and also to gain more private practice, according to Mr Reginald Elson, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

He was speaking in an interview on "Calendar", which was screened last night and which was concerned with the state of the NHS.

He said it was a dreadful indictment that many patients who should be receiving NHS treatment were instead having "to reach for their last penny, almost, in order to be seen privately."

Mr Elson claimed that because the length of waiting lists was such a crucial yardstick in determining where Health Service cash should be spent, they were rigged at an artificially high level.

The worst criticism I have heard of the waiting lists is that consultants use them to gain private practice," he said. But while some consultants did that, the more general reason was to win more resources.

"If the waiting list is large this is one of the most potent weapons in the competition for obtaining more resources. I think you're very wrong if you allow your waiting list to become unmanageable."

Mr Elson's claims were discounted by the British Medical Association last night. A spokesman said: "We would be dismayed to think that consultants try to get bigger cash allocations for their departments at the expense of the genuine needs of their patients, and we cannot believe that this is in fact the case."

"We would like to see what facts there are to back this up. If the allegations were true, we would be very concerned. It is also a gross slight to suggest that consultants seek to increase their private practice in this way."

There are occasions when waiting lists in the private sector can be as long, if not longer, than in the National Health Service."

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CROSS SINCE 1846

Striking Land Registry unions meeting today

Union representatives are to meet today to decide their next move in the dispute over cost saving measures at the Land Registry which is causing delays for house buyers over searches.

So far, just over 500 staff are on strike at the Land Registry's 13 regional offices, most based in Gloucester, which has meant that in certain cases searches have taken two weeks instead of 48 hours. The remainder of the 7,000 civil servants involved in the work are operating normally.

A spokesman for the Society of Civil and Public Servants said last night that neither side wanted to escalate the dispute.

Chess moves

Several misprints occurred in the score of the first game of the Kasparov-Karpov encounter yesterday. 5 P-Q3 should have read 5 P-Q3; 20 Q-Q4 should have been 20 Q-Q4 ch. 34 PaP should have been PaR, and Black's 32nd move was P-B7.

Overseas selling prices

Austria Sch 25; Belgium 11; the 30; Canada 75; Denmark 100; France 100; Germany 100; Greece 100; Hong Kong 100; India 100; Italy 100; Japan 100; Korea 100; Malaysia 100; Mexico 100; Netherlands 100; New Zealand 100; Norway 100; Portugal 100; Singapore 100; South Africa 100; Spain 100; Sweden 100; Switzerland 100; Taiwan 100; Thailand 100; Turkey 100; USA 100; UK 100; Yugoslavia 100.

Praise for p

Went from Scotland

to armed with a sawn-off

shot by a judge at the

trial court yesterday

The incident happened

last night after Mr

Wardlaw was mis-

taken to police, but

the officers could have

been criticized had they

prosecuted him.

Christie's morning

sale of Chinese works

of art made a total

of £213,764 with 23

per cent unsold.

All the top prices

were paid by Japanese

dealers.

There was a magni-

ficent Kakemono

gourd-shaped vase

43cm high, dated to

the Kanbun-Enpo

period (1661-1681),

which went to Mizumi

at £45,360 (estimate

£40,000 to £60,000)

and a Christian fold-

ing lectern of around

1600 decorated in

black and gold lac-

quer with mother-of-

pearl inlay at £32,400

(estimate £30,000 to

£50,000) was sold to

Yanagi.

Christie's sale of En-

glish and continental

glass made a total of

£79,436 with 14 per

cent unsold. It con-

tained a generous

jerobeam-sized en-

graved decanter with

the royal arms of

George III and Queen

Charlotte which went

to Delomonte at

£4,752 (estimate

Ripper police develop computer system to handle big inquiries

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A computer system to handle large investigations has been developed by West Yorkshire police.

The Major Incidents Computer Application, (MICA) is partly a response to inadequacies in the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry, which was overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of paper records.

Officers without previous computing experience are able to enter or retrieve information from the system.

For example, if a detective wants to know whether a white Cortina owned by a man with Welsh accent, grey hair and tattoos was in the Red Lion car park on a series of dates, he enters the question on the keyboard in a simple inquiry language called "English", the answer is displayed on the screen.

Microdata, its Hemel Hempstead-based manufacturer, unveiled the system in London yesterday Mr Jerry Causley, its managing director, said: "Mica is at least two years ahead of any comparable system cur-

rently under development in the UK.

West Yorkshire police have worked with Microdata and Isis, a software company based in Bristol, to develop MICA over the past year.

It has been used in seven murder inquiries, in West Yorkshire and on a trial basis in three West Midlands forces, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Derbyshire borrowed a prototype in the summer to help in the hunt for the killer of Diana Towers, aged 16, of Glossop.

A man has been charged with her murder, Nottinghamshire is evaluating MICA which was used in the unsolved investigation into last month's murder of Collette Aram, aged 16.

In West Yorkshire, MICA is being tested alongside the conventional manual methods. The police say that they are satisfied with assistance it provides, but will not reveal details of its use of future plans.

The Ripper investigation was seriously handicapped by the

major incident room's inefficiency according to the official report by Mr Lawrence Byfield. The centre was overloaded with unprocessed information.

A spokesman said yesterday: "Obviously MICA would have been a great asset if we had had it for the Ripper inquiry. But the technology at the time could not have provided us with anything approaching it."

MICA was developed independently of the Home Office, which is sponsoring a similar trial project called MIRIAM (Major Incident Room Index Action Management) in Essex.

Microdata and the West Yorkshire police say that MICA complies with all standards for big investigations laid down by the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Home Office is assessing MICA and has not given full approval.

MICA can run on any minicomputer made by the American-owned Microdata, with one to 128 terminals. It searches stored text a 100,000 words a minute.



Sextuplet team meets again

The medical team that attended Mrs Janet Walton as she gave birth to sextuplets were reunited at Liverpool Maternity Hospital yesterday. A total of 55 nurses, doctors and medical technicians assembled for the first time since the six Walton daughters were born on Friday.

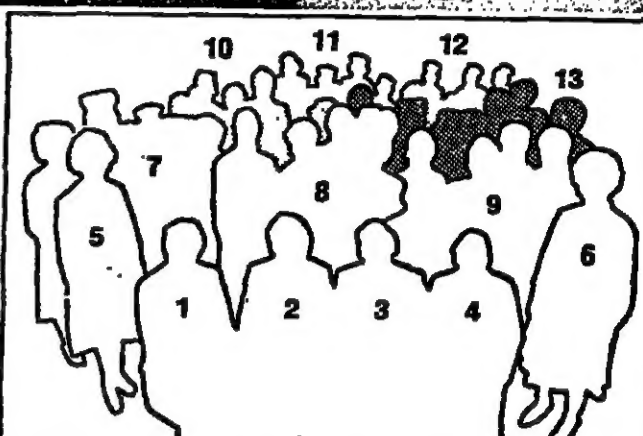
Professor John Beazley, aged 51, consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology, had nothing but praise for his team. He said: "The teamwork was

excellent. I think this achievement was remarkable - it shows what National Health Service medicine is all about."

The babies' names announced yesterday by Mr Walton. In order of birth they are: Hannah Jane (birth weight 2lb 10oz), Lucy Anne (2lb 15oz), Ruth Michelle (2lb 11oz), Sarah Louise (2lb 5oz), Kate Elizabeth (2lb 13oz), and Jennifer Rose (3lb 9oz).

Key to photograph: 1. Professor John Beazley; 2.

Dr Richard Cooke, consultant paediatrician; 3. Mr Usama Abdalla, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist; 4. Dr John Redford, anaesthetist; 5. Mrs Mantra Ryan, senior nursing officer; 6. Miss Jean Farrington, senior nursing officer; 7. Delivery suite theatre staff; 8. Special care baby unit staff; 9. Theatre technicians; 10. X-ray unit staff; 11. Liverpool Royal Infirmary nurses; 12. Liverpool Women's Hospital infertility unit staff; 13. Ante- and post-natal staff.



'Character' certificate for pupils

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is considering giving all school leavers certificates describing their character, behaviour and sporting achievements as well as their academic record.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday that a draft statement will be made next week giving details of the new certificates, which have been pioneered by several Labour-controlled authorities.

He said: "They will be particularly encouraging for those who at the moment leave school with almost no academic achievement to their credit. They would help employers find out about the character of school-leavers as well as their examination performance."

Police chief to face court

Det Chief Insp Robert Warner, head of Lincolnshire fraud and drug squad, has been summoned to appear in court in connection with the police campaign in Nottingham against "kerb crawling".

Nottinghamshire police confirmed yesterday that Mr Warner had been summoned to appear before Nottingham Magistrates' Court on December 20. He has entered a denial.

Kenny Everett admonished

Kenny Everett has been admonished by the controller of Radio 2, Mr Bryan Marriott, for remarks about the Prime Minister on his programme on Saturday.

Mr Everett ended with the comment: "When Britain was an empire, we were ruled by an emperor. When we became a kingdom, we were ruled by a king. Now we're a country, we're ruled by Margaret Thatcher."

Police interview jeweller

Two British police officers, who went last week to see Mr Robert Charwin, the Midlands jeweller who is awaiting trial in Spain on fraud charges, said yesterday in Denia, near Alicante, that he had given them names of up to nine people in whom they are interested. They indicated that on their return later this week they will be considering possible action against those named.

Paratrooper killed by British shelling

By John Withrow

A paratrooper whose parents thought he had been killed by the Argentinians died last night of British shelling on the last day of the Falklands conflict.

The Ministry of Defence was forced some weeks ago to tell the family of Private David Parr, aged 24, the truth because of the publication of a book on the role of the 2 Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, by one of its most distinguished former commanders, Major-General John Frost, who led



Private Parr: Died on last day

the defence of the road bridge at Arnhem in 1944, said last night he was sorry he had included details of Private Parr's death.

As a retired officer he said that he was under no obligation to show his manuscript to the Army, although he had intended to allow commanders of 2 Para to see it, but they had been on service in Belize.

In 2 Para Falklands, the general says that Private Parr, of Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, narrowly escaped death when a bullet lodged in his navel. But was killed instantly by British shelling during the assault on Wireless Ridge.

The book, also angered the ministry by revealing the name of the medical sergeant who as an act of mercy shot a mortally wounded Argentinian.

He also disclosed that Major Chris Keeble, who led the attack on Goose Green after Colonel "H" Jones, VC, was killed, had drawn a pistol to persuade a Royal Marine to ferry paratroopers to another part of the island.

2 Para Falklands (Buckham and Enright, £7.95).

Police delay offer to Waldorf

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard has yet to respond to the compensation claim made by Mr Steven Waldorf, the freelance film editor shot by mistake by officers in a police operation last January.

Yesterday Mr Arwyn Hopkins, Mr Waldorf's legal adviser, said that a figure had been put to the Yard but no decision had been taken. Hopkins refused to say how much Mr Waldorf was claiming.

Last month two detectives were acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court of charges involving the shooting of Mr Waldorf. Det. Constables John Jardine and Peter Finch are still suspended from duty while a report on possible disciplinary proceedings is completed.

The report, which is being studied by Mr James Sewell, Deputy Assistant Commissioner and head of the complaints investigation bureau, also covers Det. Constable John Deane who opened fire on Mr Waldorf but was not prosecuted.

Bruce Lee fails in appeal

By David Nicholson, Lord

Lawyers representing Bruce Lee yesterday failed in their attempt at the Court of Appeal to clear him of all of the 26 deaths for which he was convicted. Lee, aged 23, is seeking a retrial of the 11 cases of arson in which the 26 people died.

The court yesterday refused him the right to appeal against conviction for a house fire in December, 1979 in Selby Street, Hull, in which three children died.

The court made its decision after ruling that evidence on other fires for which Lee was convicted, indicating that they were accidental, or that he had an alibi, could not be admitted in dealing with the Selby Street fires.

The ruling was disputed by Mr Harry Oppell, QC, representing Lee, he said it could lead to a "grave risk" of serious injustice. Lee, who is disabled and educationally subnormal, confessed to all the fires but later retracted his confessions claiming that police had "badgered" him into them.

Lord Justice Ackner, presiding, said that the remedy lay with the Home Secretary if Lee's case depended on inadmissible evidence. But he cited the considerable public interest into the case and said that a lengthy reserved judgment would be made on the reasons for the ruling. Mr Justice Glidwell and Mr Justice Leggatt agreed.

At Leeds crown court, in January, 1981, Lee was convicted of manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and was sentenced to be detained without limit of time. Against legal advice, he had changed his plea to guilty. Much of the evidence was thus not heard.

The hearing continues today.

Freshly-cut cheese is shoppers' favourite

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

For the first time in many years, British shoppers are showing a preference for fresh cheese cut at the counter rather than in prepacks, according to Dairy Crest, the manufacturing and marketing subsidiary of the Milk Marketing Board.

The change is being compared with the rejection of pasteurised keg beer in favour of traditional draught brews under the influence of the Campaign for Real Ale.

But although there is a body

calling itself the Campaign for Real Cheese, a closer analogy is with the growing demand for fresh meat and fish, and for freshly baked bread, which has forced many supermarkets to instal butchers' and fishmongers' counters and to bake bread on the premises.

Overall cheese consumption rose last year to nearly 272,000 tonnes. Although two thirds of that was Cheddar, sales of Double Gloucester increased by more than 17 per cent.

Praise for police who faced gunman

Officers from Scotland Yard's Flying Squad who faced a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun were commended for their coolness by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The incident happened only four days after Mr Stephen Waldorf was mistakenly shot by police, but in this case the officers could have not been criticised had they opened fire, the court was told.

Mr Christopher Mitchell, for the prosecution, said the incident occurred in Fulham - a few miles from the scene of the Waldorf shooting - when armed Flying Squad officers

moved in to arrest three building society raiders. One of the raiders, Emmanuel Angol, aged 19 pointed the shotgun at Det. Constable Kim Durham, who was unarmed.

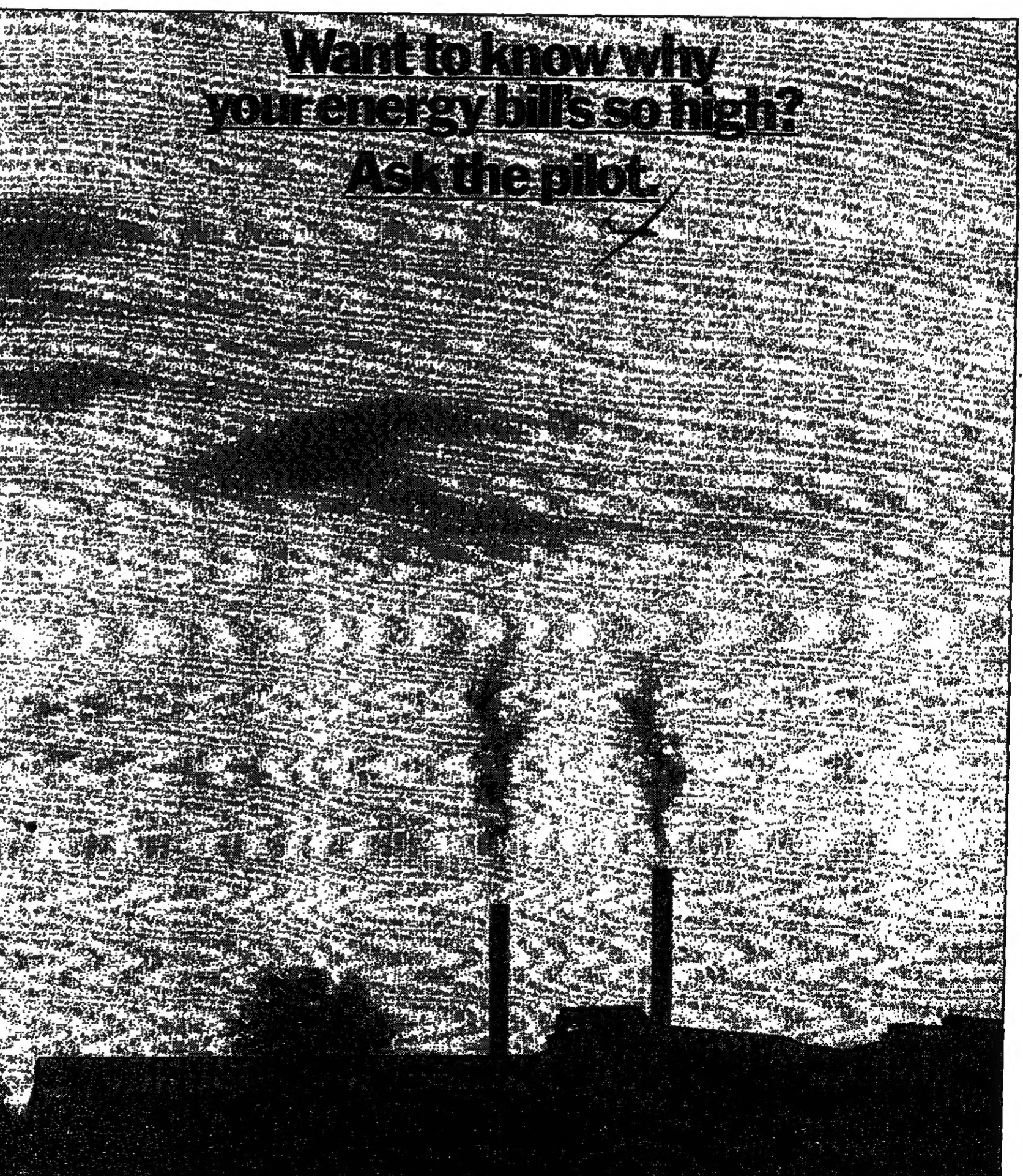
His colleague, Det. Sergeant Ronald Turnbull, drew his weapon, levelled it at Angol's chest, and shouted: "Armed police - drop it or I will shoot". Angol swung in his direction, saw him take aim and immediately threw the gun down, the court heard.

Judge Peter Mason said: "I would like to commend the officers' coolness and restraint".

Angol, of Stodmarsh House, Cowley Road, Stockwell, south-west London, was jailed for a total of seven years after admitting two building society robberies, conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm.

Eamon Anderson, aged 24, of Tyler Street, Greenwich, south-east London, was also jailed for a total of seven years after admitting two robberies, conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm.

Anderson, Mr Mitchell told the court, was the brains behind a series of armed raids on building societies all over London.



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It's good news for you, but perhaps not quite such good news for the pilot.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY OFFICE

PARLIAMENT November 22 1983

Tebbit denies selling out to the City

STOCK EXCHANGE

It was not merely desirable but well nigh essential that the Restrictive Trade Practices (Stock Exchange) Bill be enacted, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said when he moved the second reading of the Bill in the Commons.

He said that as a consequence of its reference to the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 the Stock Exchange had become petrified, not in the sense of being afraid, but in the sense of being set in stone, unable to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The Bill would exempt the Stock Exchange from the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976 and end the court action, it was estimated the Bill would result in a saving of public expenditure on legal costs of about £500,000.

Going over the history, Mr Tebbit said that despite the offer of the Stock Exchange to undertake a review of its rules in which the Government and the Bank of England would have more certain control of the outcome, the then Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection (Mr John Fraser) decided in February 1979 against a request of the Stock Exchange that it should be removed from the scope of the restrictive practice legislation.

By 1979 the Stock Exchange was in need of change in order to carry on its business and carry out its responsibilities to investors. In the four years since then, it had become clear that the court action had become a serious and chronic barrier to change.

To the satisfaction of the custodians of the vested interests of trade unions, industrial relations agreements between trade unions and employers were outside the scope of the Act. By and large, the learned professions were excluded. This Bill would be a statute which exempted the Stock Exchange.

The Government required necessary changes to be made as part of the bargain under which the action was to be ended and the Stock Exchange to be exempted.

For the first time lay members would be appointed to the council of the Stock Exchange. They would account for up to 25 per cent of the council and would be appointed by the Governor of the Bank of England.

At least five lay members would join the council by the end of next month. A new membership appeals body entirely independent of the Stock Exchange members of the council was being established.

If the council objected to an application for membership, the appeal body would be able to review the position and if the applicant met the requirements would be able to over-ride the council's decision. The appeals body could include lay council members but Stock Exchange members were ineligible. On the exchange's existing appeals committee, who were not Stock Exchange members of the council would constitute a majority.

These changes would allow the influence of Stock Exchange users to be felt at the centre of policy-making in the exchange and would ensure refusal or admission to membership of the exchange was seen to be objective.

A further change - details of which would be announced in a day or two - was that it would be

possible for non-members of the exchange to serve as non-executive directors of limited corporate members of the council provided there was a majority of directors who were Stock Exchange members.

This provision further liberalized existing rules which allowed any single non-member to own up to 29.9 per cent of the capital of limited corporate members of the Stock Exchange.

However, part of the agreement reached by the Stock Exchange which had attracted most attention was the undertaking to dismantle rules prescribing the minimum scales of commission. The council had already announced its decision to abolish minimum commissions for overseas securities and the relevant rule changes would take effect at the beginning of April, 1984.

Now it was considering various options for the further steps which were needed before December 31, 1986 - the date by which it had undertaken to dismantle minimum commissions completely.

In July a gradual dismantling had been envisaged. Now it might well be that all remaining scales might have been completed - the so-called "big bang approach". The effects of breaking the log jam had already been quite remarkable. The impetus for change seemed to be growing.

An unprecedented debate had been sparked off by the decision to ask Parliament to take this case out of court.

It was not only or indeed primarily for the Government to take decisions on the long-term future of the securities industry in Britain. He did not wish for the Secretary of State to plan and regulate the market. It was a task for those more expert in the securities market and for those who wished to trade in it.

His interest was threefold: to ensure that the Stock Exchange continued as an effective market in which industry and commerce could seek finance, the Government could issue gilts and from time to time take state industries into ownership of the public; to see the investor

properly served and properly protected; and to foster the London market as a contribution to Britain's financial prosperity.

Some of the most important and intense debates since the Government's intentions had been announced had been centred on the future of single capacity. Within and outside the Stock Exchange were many who believed that single capacity could not long survive the introduction of negotiated commissions.

Single capacity had been a clear and well-understood way to protect investors against unfair trading

practices but if the Stock Exchange and its users decided that concentration or capacity must go, it was not for him to stand in their way. His interest was not in the ending of single capacity but in safeguards to investors and that they should be in place before any change to single capacity was made.

Investors would also demand adequate safeguards. If they did not exist on the Stock Exchange in London, they would take their custom elsewhere so the exchange was well aware of the need to be ready, whichever way the market developed.

Legal changes might lead to the establishment of more extensive retail outlets and wider share ownership but after the experience of the past four months, he would hesitate to predict the extent of change.

It was essential that if single capacity went, it should be replaced by other protections and probably the maximum openness or transparency - if that was the current word - in dealing would be among them.

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Parkinson: Huge sums would have been spent

of the free market in labour, would react to those terrible practices when they were undertaken, not by industrial or white-collar trade unionists, but by gentlemen in pinstriped suits who traded on the Stock Exchange.

Now they knew it was a new style for a new policy for a new department. The hawk of employment had become the dove of trade and industry.

This was an exercise of ministerial power for which he could find no precedent. There was no record of a measure to frustrate judicial procedure once it had commenced and it was, on that account alone, a scandal.

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Payroll vote had right to know about Bill

COMMONS

It was normal procedure for members of the Government to be informed of the contents of Bills to be discussed on a Friday on which the ministers responsible had expressed the Government's opposition, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, said when the issue was raised by Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab), whose Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill was blocked last Friday.

Mr Wareing's sponsor of the Bill, had asked: Would he indicate how far Government business was disrupted last Friday morning, how many ministers cancelled or curtailed urgent engagements?

He was aware of a briefing note, which I have in my possession and which I understand was circulated to Conservative members telling them how to respond at the end of the debate on the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill if he is not, he is incompetent.

The withdrawal from the purview of the court and the Act was total and immediate under this Bill, and further references were to be deleted. But why did the Secretary of State undertake this extraordinary U-turn?

Mr Wareing: I think he would wish to rephrase that comment.

Mr Wareing: In what way have I offended the House? Perhaps I could suggest Mr Biffen had misled the House.

Mr Biffen: Events on Friday excited a great deal of concern and emotion. That is understandable. It is not the first time matters like that have been debated and the Government have subsequently been accused of employing a payroll vote.

I stand by what I said on Thursday. I am sure the House would think it extraordinary if members of the Government were not advised of the contents of a Bill to which the responsible minister had expressed Government opposition. That is a long standing practice.

Mr Crawley Owsley (Woking, C): Mr Biffen should ignore the synthetic indignation and protestations on Friday and recognise the eagerness of Labour MPs to turn up and vote for measures which are wasteful and unwelcome to the determination of Conservatives to vote against them.

Mr Biffen: Any move to introduce contentious legislation, even through private members' time, provokes considerable opposition.

Public comment is now invited on the proposals, which must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment by January 3 1984. If approved, the new bodies could be operating by next summer.

Mr Roy Watts, chairman of

Plans published yesterday aim to bring water users into closer contact with water authorities.

The Thames Water Authority and the Northumbrian Water Authority have produced the first suggestions for new consultative procedures, which were imposed on water authorities by the 1983 Water Act.

Although differing in detail, the plans published by the two water authorities are basically similar. Local consultative committees or panels will meet several times a year, and will represent household consumers, industry, commerce, and local government.

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Cable TV franchise criteria criticized

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The Government's rigid criteria for awarding cable television franchises, and the ambitious expansion plans of existing cable operators have been given as the primary reasons why only 10 new networks may be licensed at the end of the month instead of the expected 12.

The selection, to be made by the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry on the advice from the Economist Intelligence Unit, is only days away from being finalized and yet ministers are in a quandary. The Government wanted to award the franchises for a multichannel cable system (about 30 channels) to a consortium that had money, experience and new technology but also sought to encourage newcomers. The criteria are proving incompatible.

Many in the cable industry have criticized the Government in recent weeks for allowing Rediffusion and Visionaire to expand existing networks in more than a hundred areas around the country. The Government had assured those operators that they would be allowed to expand such systems without fear of competition until 1985. That concession, government critics believe, has unnecessarily and severely constrained the areas available for franchises.

The Home Office remains confident that the awards will be made on time. In all, 37 applications have been submitted with competing tenders for Westminster and Central, British Telecom has applied for nine franchises in partnership with local operators.

The franchises to be awarded at the end of the month are a compromise by a nervous Home Office which is fearful of falling standards in television programming.

Winning smiles: Lorna Griffiths and Jonathan Powell, both aged 16, and from Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, with the anti-theft milk bottle holder they designed. It won the 16-18 age group in the Schools Design Competition and earned them a £200 prize.

At the Institution of Civil Engineers, Westminster, yesterday, Princess Alexandra presented them with the

Divorce in Britain: 3

Hailsham denies Bill favours middle-class men

Lord Hailsham said on Monday in the Lords that the new divorce Bill had been widely misunderstood and distorted. It would not, he argued, make divorce easier. JOHN WITHEROW, in the final part of our series, looks at the controversy surrounding the Bill.

Is the reform of the divorce law now before Parliament a male, middle class Bill, or in the words of Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, "Justice! Justice! Tempered with mercy and compassion?" No divorce reform has ever failed to provoke controversy and the present legislation is no exception. To its supporters it is a step towards a clean break and putting an end to the "allimony divorce" and "divorce bounty hunters" who have a "meal ticket" for life.

But to its opponents it is a law intended to help the tiny minority of well-off men with demanding second wives who keep their ex-wives on maintenance. The churches too are alarmed by the proposed reduction of the minimum period of marriage from three years to 12 months.

Young childless women affected

The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill is the first important piece of government legislation on divorce for more than a decade and is based on a Law Commission report of 1981. It challenges the concept that a husband should maintain a former wife indefinitely; places greater emphasis on conduct in marriage; proposes barring all divorces in the first year of marriage; and gives greater priority to the needs of children.

But will the Bill, which could become law within a year, make much difference? Some registrars maintain it will affect only 10 per cent of cases and that the courts will continue to dispense justice in paternalistic fashion, accepting that women are often at a disadvantage and need protection.

Lord Hailsham, appearing on the television programme *Credo*, argued that fears about the Bill were unfounded and that it would not affect divorced women with young children. He denied claims by one-parent family groups that it would lead to a reduction in the payment of maintenance and a greater reliance on supplementary benefits.

The people who would be affected, he implied, would be young childless women, and those whose children had grown up who would see a "tapering off" of maintenance over a period of years.

The Bill is generally being welcomed by the legal establishment. Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division at the High Court, said it was "a step in the right direction in the financial field".

But for others it does not go far enough. Some judges would like to have seen conciliation included, which would ease pressure on the courts, with couples agreeing first on uncontested areas.

The Campaign for Justice in Divorce, which has been an

effective pressure group for divorced men, also feel the Bill is a compromise. Dr Richard Allan, its policy adviser, would like to see a complete end to adult maintenance and a matrimonial property law that would divide equally the spoils of marriage, including pension rights.

He believes divorced men who pay maintenance are acting as scapegoats in a society which refuses to treat women equally. Nonetheless, he maintains the Bill will achieve moves to greater equality. "Some women's groups say we should get equality first and then change the divorce law", he said, "but I think we should change the divorce law and equality will follow. Society will have to meet the demands of working women with children and then you will find the place awash with crèches and day-care centres."

The clause in the Bill giving greater emphasis to conduct is also causing concern. Critics point out that it has moved from Lord Denning's ruling that conduct should be excluded unless it was "gross and obvious", to the Bill's "inequitable to disregard it". That, they fear, could mean a return to the days before the Divorce Reform Act, 1969, with the concept of "guilty" and "innocent" parties and the possibility that wives could be thrown into hardship for "misconduct".

Lord Hailsham, however, said it is only a slight change, adding "you cannot disregard the way people are behaving, or have behaved."

Most ex-wives get less than £20

The church is also in a quandary. While accepting that an anti-divorce policy is untenable with so many marriages breaking down, they are divided over whether to make a stand or take a pragmatic view. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, Bishop of Birmingham, and an outspoken critic, says the 12-month rule will mean "the state will no longer regard marriage in principle as a lifelong union of a man and a woman".

The group, Gingerbread, which represents one parent families, says the Bill is putting the "cart before the horse". The attitude of men, they say, is "if you want equality get on with it". But equality does not exist, so it will mean hardship for women.

The group points out that the vast majority of ex-wives do not get maintenance. Research shows that only 12 per cent of newly-divorced women live solely on maintenance (although two out of three get some payment from husbands) and that number halved 10 years after separation. Of those receiving money from ex-husbands, 75 per cent get less than £20 per week.

Concluded

Reagan wins the war and writes the history

In the last of three articles on the US intervention in Grenada, Trevor Fishlock relates how President Reagan convinced most Americans and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

The Americans have closed their detention camp in Grenada. The use of 10 stifling wooden packing cases as isolation cells for prisoners undergoing interrogation had caused bad publicity at home, and the Americans naturally do not want the generally favourable image of their Grenadian episode to be tarnished.

President Reagan has largely been successful, not only in his military and



GRENADA Part 3

political objectives, but in presenting his case. He has convinced most Americans, and some people abroad, that what he did was right.

Some of what the Administration has said has strained credibility and there has been a strong strain of misinformation and disingenuousness in the presentation of events. But it is goals that count.

The Administration winces at the word invasion. So too do quite a few people in the Caribbean. The Administration explains, with an air of wearied patience, that it was a rescue of



The right image: US troops preparing to release a member of the revolutionary army.

medical students and the oppressed Grenadians.

The supposed peril of the American students is still disputed. The day before the invasion, the Reagan Administration said they were not in danger. Afterwards it said they were. The head of the medical school said there was no danger. After he had been visited by Administration officials he found that there was.

Had the students felt endangered they could have left. The Administration said the airport at Pearls was closed on October 24, so that students could not have got out had they wanted to. The airport, however, was open and several aircraft flew out.

The call for help from the Organization of East Caribbean States, on October 22, three days before the invasion, was

useful as justification. But it was not vital, any more than the request for help from Sir Paul Scoon, the Governor-General, who said his request, dated October 24, the eve of the invasion, reached Barbados through non-diplomatic channels.

President Reagan had, in any case, ordered urgent invasion planning on October 20. And there is some evidence that

action was considered at least five days before, including a possible rescue of Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister, from house arrest.

The Administration inflated the number of Cuban military people on the island. In the end it agreed with Cuban figures. It made much of the arms and documents it discovered, to bolster its assertion that, as President Reagan said, Grenada was "a Soviet-Cuban colony being readied for as a major military bastion to export terror" and "We got there just in time" to prevent Cuban occupation.

Apart from anti-aircraft weapons, the arms were not all that impressive at first glance and, to some, seemed not much more than might be trawled from a Texas suburb. Washington also invented a "mass grave" to emphasize the savagery of the regime and had to climb down when no such grave was found.

The American press was angry that the invasion took place without reporters being there.

The American military establishment, it is said, had noted British restrictions on reporters in the Falklands. There is a strong view among US military men that reporting of the Vietnam war led to public disenchantment, that the press was unpatriotic.

Of course, reporters were allowed into Grenada eventually, but this was against the wishes of the military commanders. They were overruled by the President.

Concluded

US troops come under fire again

From Christopher Thomas St George's

Five United States soldiers came under fire while walking through a heavily wooded area in central Grenada, the American Army announced here yesterday. It was the first attack on US troops in four days and the fifth since the American invasion.

The soldiers, all technicians, were walking along a track in the Grand Etang area when they noticed two men walking in the same direction 50 yards ahead. One of the soldiers noticed a concealed rifle carried by one of the men and shouted a warning. With that the two men spun round and opened fire with rifles.

The US Army said the technicians fired back with pistols and the men fled. There were no injuries on either side and no indication whether the men, both of whom wore identical blue shirts, were Cubans or Grenadians.

News of the attack was announced on the day that the military also reported a substantial reduction in the number of combat troops in Grenada. In the last few days their numbers have been reduced from 2,300 to 1,900 and more will be moved out. All combat troops will have left by the December 23 deadline set by the White House.

American Airlines announce an easier way to fly two for the price of one non-stop to Dallas.

From now until December 31st 1983, when you accompany a passenger paying the full round-trip Business Class fare, we'll fly you round-trip from Gatwick to Dallas absolutely free of charge.

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Remember the past, Churchill tells CND

British disarmament, however desirable, could never take precedence over the maintenance of peace in a nuclear age, Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Darnley, told students at the Oxford Union.

He was opposing the motion "That Britain can and should remove all nuclear weapons from her shores." It was defeated by 215 votes to 195.

He said: "There is no merit in disarmament if it undermines peace, only if it buttresses peace. There is another way forward without the reckless gamble of unilateral disarmament."

And Mr Churchill had a particular message for the secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Monsignor Bruce Kent and others espousing the cause of one-sided British disarmament. Said Mr Churchill: "Remember the lessons of history".

Pointing to a plaque on the wall behind the seat of the union president, Mr Neale Stevenson, Mr Churchill said during Monday night's debate: "Four of your predecessors gave their lives in the last war."

We have already paid the price of one-sided disarmament in the past."

He added: "CND, the Communist Party of Great Britain, the Labour Party and Russia all invite you to give up 40 years of freedom but the people of this country expressed their vote on that in June."

Supporting the motion, Mr Dennis Davies, Labour MP for Llanelli and deputy Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said there was no military or political case for bringing cruise missiles to Britain. "The West can already destroy Russia 20 times over and cruise will not give extra deterrence. Cruise has not coupled America to Europe, it has de-coupled the Western Alliance. What is happening is that we are seeing waves of increasing anti-American feeling in Europe."

"The real danger of cruise is that it could lead to German isolationism followed by German nationalism. That is why we should send cruise back. Its presence will create the tensions which could lead to nuclear war."



Mr Winston Churchill: "Another way forward"



Mr Dennis Davies: "No case for cruise"

Crisis in Lebanon: Ultimatum to PLO chairman

Arafat given three days to quit Tripoli

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Three days grace has been given to Mr Yasser Arafat to get out of Tripoli or face an attack in the city. This is the margin allowed him by Mr Ahmad Jibril, Palestinian rebel leader whose fighters have driven Arafat loyalists out of the two Palestinian refugee camps north of Tripoli.

He told reporters yesterday that there would be no compromise. "If he does not go from Tripoli, we will attack him in the streets," he said.

Mr Jibril heads the general command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the most hard-line of the eight factions that make up the Palestine Liberation Organization. He and other Syrian-backed rebels want to oust Mr Arafat as leader of the Fatah faction and as head of the PLO.

According to Mr Abu Jihad, chief Arafat military adviser, the rebels were bringing in reinforcements since they declared a nominal ceasefire on Monday. An attack on Tripoli could come as early as today.

Artillery and mortar fire from rebel positions rained on Tripoli yesterday morning, but by afternoon the barrage had stopped. Arafat loyalists fired from the north of the city toward the Baddawi refugee camp which fell to the rebels last weekend. The loyalists had been forced to abandon the Nahr el-Bared camp on November 6, four days after the rebel offensive began.

As the fighting continued, two delegations of mediators arrived in Damascus to discuss ways of ending the PLO fighting.

Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister met Mr Abdul Halim Khadan, his



The enemies: Mr Yasser Arafat (left), under threat from Mr Ahmad Jibril the rebel leader



Syrian counterpart while a delegation of ministers from non-aligned nations, including India, Yugoslavia, Somalia and Cuba, also arrived for talks. Lebanese leaders have appealed to Mr Arafat to leave Tripoli and spare the Northern port city of 500,000 from harm. Police say many of the residents have fled the city to avoid street clashes and shelling.

The rebels had declared a ceasefire, effective from last Monday, but fighting did not stop. Mr Jibril said yesterday that "this situation will con-

tinue for only three days" and that they will then attack. MOSCOW: A senior Arafat aide, Mr Faruk Kadumi, arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks with Soviet leaders. Tass said he was on a brief visit, but gave no further details. (Reuters reports).

Informed Arab sources said Mr Kadumi had been invited by the Kremlin to counter-balance a visit here two weeks ago by Mr Khaddam of Syria.

PARIS: M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister, has shown photographs on French

television purporting to prove that French jets were wholly successful in hitting their intended targets within a Shia Muslim military training camp on the outskirts of Baalbek (Diana Geddes writes).

Not a single bomb fell outside the confines of the 62-acre camp, he insisted.

M Hernu's appearance on television on Monday night, four days after the raid, was prompted by increasingly widespread reports that the attack had been a fiasco.

Robert Fisk, The Times

correspondent, visited the Shaikh Abdullah camp, which is to the south of Baalbek. (The French originally spoke of having hit military targets to the east, and reported in Monday's paper that the Super Etendard jets appeared to have missed totally their stated targets.

The camp itself was virtually untouched, he said. The only obvious physical damage was to a hotel in Baalbek. The French Government has insisted that no civilian positions were touched.

Jaruzelski extends amnesty and reshuffles Cabinet

From Charles Gans, Warsaw

Poland's Parliament (SEjm) extended the amnesty for underground Solidarity activists at the close of a two-day session at which general Wojciech Jaruzelski announced the reshuffling of his Government. The changes mounting concern over failures to end food shortages and provide more consumer goods.

A deputy described the extension of the amnesty until December 31 as an "act of reconciliation," noting that 686 Solidarity supporters had reported to police to avoid prosecution before the original amnesty offer expired at the end of October.

However, most of those turning themselves in have been on the fringes of the opposition. Solidarity's underground leaders, dismissing the amnesty as a failure, have vowed to carry on their activities.

The amnesty extension had been supported by both the Government and the Communist front umbrella group PRON (Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth).

While the amnesty extension represents a conciliatory

gesture, the sejm also adopted a new Bill on national defence strengthening General Jaruzelski's hand to respond quickly to any future threats to communist rule. General Jaruzelski, who combines the posts of party leader, Prime Minister and Defence Minister, resigned his long time deputy, General Florian Siwicki. But he was chosen by the Sejm to be the chairman of the newly formed National Defence Committee. The new Defence Act gives the Defence Ministry, declare war, or impose and administer a state of emergency.

General Jaruzelski also made official the expected shake-up among his key economic aides. Mr Janusz Obodowski, a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic reform policies, has been dropped as head of the Planning Commission. Mr Zdzislaw Mach, a Deputy Prime Minister responsible for international economic cooperation, was dismissed and his functions assigned to Mr Obodowski.

English faithhealer, page 10

Liberia tells Soviet envoy to leave

Monrovia (AFP) - Liberia has declared as *persona non grata* the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Anatoly Ulanov, and Mr Peter Sackat, for "activities incompatible with their diplomatic status," the Foreign Ministry announced.

General Rudolf Kobina, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said that the two diplomats have been given 48 hours to leave the country. The action was taken in order to "preserve the cardinal relations subsisting between Liberia and the two countries."

No other details were given, but political observers believed the move was connected with a plot to overthrow the ruling military council which was disclosed yesterday by Mr Samuel Doe, the head of state. Mr Doe said in a broadcast that a foreign mission was aware of the plot and had promised aid, including arms and money, to the plotters.

Prisoners go on rampage

Brisbane (AFP) - More than 100 prisoners remained harried in Brisbane's maximum-security prison after inmates on a hunger strike hit fires and rampaged through the institution.

Prison officers regained control of the rest of the jail. The rebellious prisoners, armed with clubs, had smashed windows and furniture.

Mafia murder

Carini, Sicily (AFP) - Gunmen firing from a speeding car shot dead a banker outside his house in what investigators described as the second Mafia-related slaying in 24 hours near this western Sicilian town. On Monday, five masked men stormed Carini hospital and killed a cattle-farmer.

Refugee status

Mr Abdul Butt, aged 47, a Pakistani politician sentenced to 25 years in jail after being tried in absentia, has been granted refugee status to remain in Britain after 17 months of uncertainty and a five-month spell in Ashford remand centre. He was accused of terrorist links.

Kidnap contact

Amsterdam (AFP) - Heineken Breweries sent "warm congratulations" to the kidnappers of Mr Freddy Heineken, aged 60, in what was believed to be a coded message in the classified section of the *Telegraaf* newspaper. It invited them to make "initial contact" for practical reasons.

Fine doubled

Los Angeles (Reuters) - A judge announced that from today he will double to \$20,000 (about £14,000) the daily fine he has imposed on Larry Flynt until the sex magazine publisher reveals the source of a key tape recording. Flynt appeared in court wearing an American flag as an apron.

Galtieri trial

Buenos Aires - Summary proceedings have begun in the court-martial of former President Leopoldo Galtieri and other top Argentine military leaders held responsible for Argentina's defeat in the Falklands war last year.

Dynamite gift

New York (AFP) - An early "Christmas present" for President Reagan was found by Kennedy Airport post office officials to contain what seemed to be two sticks of dynamite. It had been mailed from Canada.

Propane toll

Kakogawa, Japan (Reuters) - Fourteen people were killed and 27 injured in two propane gas explosions at a barbecue restaurant in this central Japanese city. The single-storey restaurant was wrecked.

Afghan claim

Islamabad (Reuters) - An Afghan general and about 11 Afghan or Soviet officials were killed last week when guerrillas shot down their helicopter south of Kabul, Western diplomats said here.

Pylons blast

Durban (Reuters) - Two power pylons were damaged near Durban by explosive devices, cutting off electricity to some villages. Nobody was hurt.

Killer cable

Chester, Texas (Reuters) - A steel cable snapped at a sawmill, decapitating the owner and three employees. A fifth man was injured.

Timely find

New Orleans (AP) - An old book found in the library of St Mary's Dominican College here could help to save the financially troubled school from closure. It is a valuable 1497 copy of the *Nuremberg Chronicle* and will be offered for sale.

That's on at Con

Soon after Mrs Thatcher's visit to the United States, the Conservative Party will be holding a conference in London. Mrs Thatcher will be one of the main speakers at the conference, which will also hear from other leading Conservative figures.

The conference will be held at the Grosvenor Hotel in London. It will be the first time since 1974 that the party has held a conference in London. The conference will be held over three days, from November 24 to 26.

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EEC sticks to Cyprus diplomacy

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels

Greece did not press for sanctions against either Turkey or the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus at a meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Brussels yesterday.

Mr Yiannis Haralambopoulos, the Greek minister, chaired the meeting, which agreed that at this stage only diplomatic action was appropriate to try to force the Turkish Cypriots to end their breakaway attempt.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said "there was no enthusiasm or support for sanctions. Every state excluded them".

It was felt, however, that the UDI might affect the preferential trade agreement between Cyprus and the Community. The main items benefiting from it are fruit and vegetables.

The European Commission has been asked to make a study and report to next week's foreign council in Brussels. It might be agreed then that only goods leaving the sector of the island would qualify for preferential treatment.

The commission has also been asked to speed up establishment of a customs union between Cyprus and the Community. This is scheduled for 1990, but negotiations have been slow.

WASHINGTON: President Reagan has appealed to President Kyprianou of Cyprus not to let the "ill-advised" UDI stand in the way of a negotiated settlement (Moshin Ali writes).

Mr Reagan, during a meeting with President Kyprianou on Monday, said he stood four square behind the good-offices mission of Senator Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, to re-establish dialogue between the Greek and Turkish communities on the island. President Reagan restated his "deep distress" at the UDI, which the United States has condemned.

Mr Ilker Turkmen, Foreign Minister of Turkey, said here that the UDI was presented as an interim step and the aim was to continue intercommunal negotiations for a peaceful, lasting settlement.

Hijack fails

Chicago (AP) - A man who said he had a bomb concealed a Republic Airlines DC9 and demanded to speak to the Rev Jesse Jackson, a contender for the US presidency. He was tackled and subdued by passengers and no bomb was found.

Njonjo inquiry delayed for two months

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

A judicial inquiry into what has been described here as Kenya's Watergate - allegations that the former Constitutional Affairs Minister, Mr Charles Njonjo, was being groomed by an unnamed foreign power to be Kenya's next President - was yesterday adjourned until January 10.

The inquiry, by three High Court judges, was ordered by President Moi after he suspended Mr Njonjo from his ministerial post last June.

Mr Moi, who first referred to a plot last May, did not name either the alleged traitor or the

The nuclear debate today and the day after

Oslo approves deployment by one vote

Oslo (Reuters) The Norwegian Parliament yesterday rejected by a single vote an opposition proposal that Norway should not support the deployment of new NATO nuclear missiles in West Europe.

The 78 to 77 vote came after a 13-hour security debate and the outcome was expected to have been close. Outside Parliament scuffles broke out during the debate between police and 200 anti-missile demonstrators. About 80 people were detained.

The Labour, Liberal and Socialist-left parties called on Parliament to state that Nor-

way, while being a member of the Atlantic alliance, opposed putting the new missiles into place in Western Europe while US-Soviet arms control negotiations were continuing in Geneva.

Labour speakers said that Nato and Prime Minister Kaare Willoch's centre-right coalition Government wanted to demonstrate political as well as military strength through deployment.

COPENHAGEN: Much of Denmark ground to halt for five minutes yesterday in a brief mass protest against the deploy-

ment of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe (Christopher Folken writes).

The general strike action, which took place between 11.55 am and noon, was called by the powerful 1.3-million member Trade Union Federation on the eve of the first batch of Pershing missiles arriving in West Germany.

During the protest, traffic came to a halt, public transport buses drew into the side of the road, trains went slow, all radio programmes were suspended. Factories and schools also observed the five minutes

silence and police, and 350,000 white-collar union members also took part.

In Copenhagen's central square, people stood motionless just before noon.

GENEVA: The shortest meeting yet - one hour - between the American and Russian negotiators in the strategic arms reduction talks yesterday was followed by a luncheon for the two delegations, hosted by General Edward Rowan, the chief US representative (Alan McGregor writes).

Horror film that struck at the heart

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Charles Olfather, a retired law professor who lives in Lawrence, Kansas, had a bit part in the nuclear holocaust film *The Day After*, which has become a hot political and social issue. He played a Mid-West farmer in the hopeless poisoned aftermath of the bombs. "You people in Europe are closer to the issue than we are. We haven't known the horrors of war in our own land since the Civil War. We've been remote. I hope this film brings Americans as close to the reality of things as you who have lived through bombing."

"Sure, some of us have personal experience of war. And we see film of World War Two, and Lebanon, but the point of *The Day After* is that it's not about an event in a far off country, not something remote that we can dismiss. It happens right here in America, in a town we can all identify with. This time the horror happens to us."

"It had a profound effect on the town. We enjoyed taking part in the movie. It was exciting. But then we had a preview. We came away with a pall over us. No one said anything. We were silent."

In the film Lawrence is affected by the blast and fallout from a nuclear attack on Kansas City 38 miles away. The town is wrecked and dying survivors totter through the ruins.

The Mayor of Lawrence, businessman Mr David Longhurst, said yesterday: "It was a sobering experience. There was our town, our cordial friendly community of 53,000 people, the streets, hospital and buildings we are all familiar with, littered with dead and hopeless survivors. This was us."

"You heard the people in the film saying the things we all say, that it couldn't happen, that those who govern us wouldn't be such madmen. It was chilling. I know it was not a very good film from an artistic point of view, but the impact was tremendous."

"The mood today is not one of despair. People have an intense feeling of wanting to do something about the nuclear threat. Everyone is saying 'what can we do?'"

"A few are saying that the film was propaganda, playing into the hands of the commies, but that's not the majority feeling. We think Russian parents must have the same feelings for their kids as we do. Most of us feel the film has served a

useful purpose. We want to know more about the arms race, to be able to respond to those who are telling us what's good for us. We want answers."

"I have just written to Reagan and Andropov expressing our concern about the deterioration in the relationship between our countries. They haven't even met. It's insane. I have invited them both to Lawrence, just to talk."

The film was seen by an estimated 100 million Americans on Sunday night. It was, in spite of the terrible events it depicted, a rather banal film, and scientists have been quick to point out that it underplayed the destruction and the nature of the injuries that would be caused by nuclear blast. Certainly film of real-life events at Hiroshima is more horrific.

But the quality of the production notwithstanding *The Day After* has ignited an intense political and public debate.

Some commentators feel it has put President Reagan on the defensive, not

least because it took the nuclear question to the arena he understands well: television. The President put Mr George Shultz, his Secretary of State, on television to counter the film, but there is a feeling that Mr Shultz was too bland.

The right is furious with the programme because it says that deterrence has failed and because it provides ammunition for the peace lobby.

Meanwhile, schools and colleges across the country are devoting time to discussion of it and the broader nuclear issue. Newspapers yesterday reported that many youngsters expressed fear and hopelessness after seeing it.

The *New York Times* said that the film taught nothing and had little political value. "For all the pompous pretence, this was an entertainment... a horror show, a disaster movie. A hundred million Americans were summoned to be empathetically incinerated and left without a single idea to chew on."



Coming to Britain: A scene from the American nuclear film "The Day After" to be broadcast by Granada on December 10.

Budget at risk over UK rebate

From Ian Murray Brussels

Any attempt to pay Britain its £457m EEC budget rebate for 1983 without consent of the European Parliament will mean that the Community

Thatcher forced to fight on three fronts at Commonwealth talks

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Soon after Mrs Thatcher arrived at Palam airport on a chilly Delhi morning she got her first taste of what the atmosphere of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting will be like.

At a meeting with Mrs Indira Gandhi, who will be hosting the conference, Mrs Thatcher heard the Indian Prime Minister's views on three of the main concerns of the conference: Namibia, the world economic order and the arms race.

On each subject the conference will attempt to put Mrs Thatcher on the defensive, on each the British have no well-defined position to explain and to try to gain understanding for.

The discussions on southern Africa will be formally opened by President Nyerere of Tanzania and he is certain to press the Western five-nation contact group represented here by Canada and Britain for this further progress.

At Melbourne two years ago the contact group nations, which also include West Germany, France and America,

were able to say that things were moving and that they should be allowed to get on with it. This time the concept of "patient diplomacy", which Britain will be arguing in favour of, may be more difficult to put over.

The difficulties may be reduced by the fact that the discussion on southern Africa will not take place until next week, by which time the Commonwealth leaders will have been on retreat to Goa where in an informal atmosphere such problems may be ironed out.

But the presence of Mr Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West African People's Organization (Swapo), in Delhi lobbying delegations to support his cause will not make it easier.

Much of the discussion may centre on a proposal that President Shagari of Nigeria has floated for an African Commonwealth contingent which may be able to replace the Cubans in Angola.

The British response is that they will be seeking to have some flesh put on the bones of his proposal before they can say whether they think it has any chance of success.

President Shagari will be among the keynote speakers at the opening session today. Also speaking will be Mrs Gandhi; Mrs Thatcher; Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime

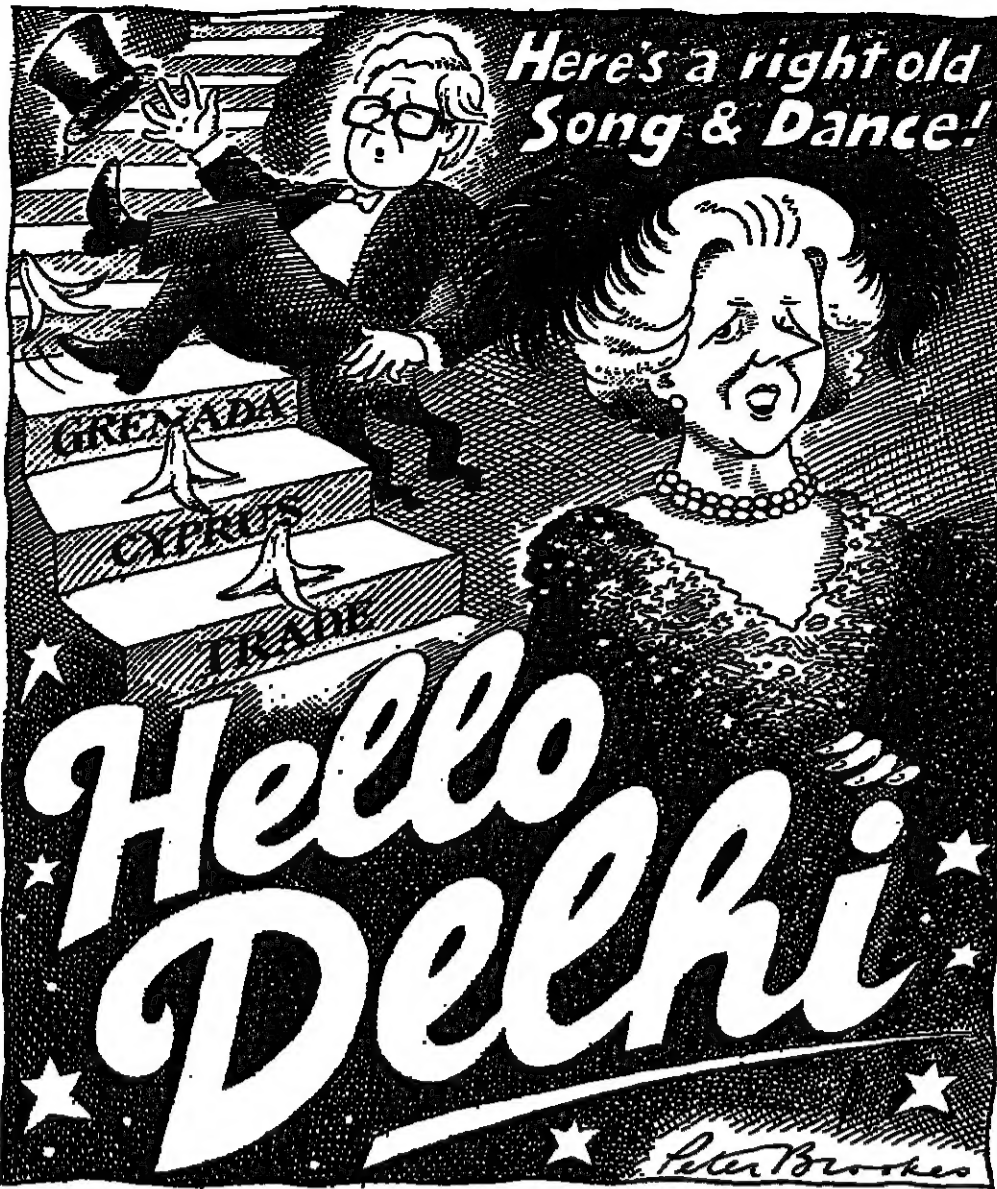
Minister; and the youngest head of government in the commonwealth, Mr Jeremiah Tabai, President of Kiribati - which was more familiar as the Gilbert Islands.

On the world economic order, Mrs Gandhi, as chairman of the non-aligned movement whose summit meeting prepared a long document on the needs of the developing world, is anxious for clear progress to be made.

Mrs Thatcher, who will preside over the next summit meeting of the seven industrial nations in London in June, will be anxious to explain that the developing countries can best be helped by a continuing reduction in the rate of inflation and the interest rates and a growth in the level of economic activity.

● Tiger topics: The future of Indian tigers was the main point of talks here yesterday between Mrs Gandhi and the Duke of Edinburgh (AFP reports).

The Duke is president of the World Wildlife Fund and Mrs Gandhi is associated with "Project Tiger", started 10 years ago to save threatened Indian tigers. The prince and Prime Minister were attending anniversary celebrations of the project, which has helped to create 14 tiger reserves in India.



Andropov gets a mention in Pravda

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Pravda, marked the anniversary of Mr Yuri Andropov's first speech as party leader last year, but only mentioned his name once in yesterday's front page editorial.

Ten days ago the Soviet press ignored the anniversary of Mr Andropov's election as party leader. The Communist Party newspaper published an article in memory of Mr Andropov's predecessor, Leonid Brezhnev, which criticized the slackness and inefficiency of the Brezhnev years but praised the former leader as an "outstanding figure" who had laid the basis for Soviet policies.

Yesterday's front page Pravda editorial recalled Mr Andropov's promise at the November, 1982, Central Committee plenum to improve Soviet living standards. The article praised the subsequent drive for efficiency, labour discipline and economic growth. Most of this was in general terms, however, and Mr Andropov's name was not mentioned at all in connection with the second Central Committee plenum of his leadership in June this year.

Battle on Soviet jet leaves 7 dead

Moscow (Reuters) - Seven people were killed in a gun battle on a Soviet airliner after eight young hijackers tried to force it to fly to Turkey, informed Soviet sources said yesterday.

They said that the group, which came on board in a wedding party, commandeered the airliner after it took off from Tbilisi, Soviet Georgia, on an internal flight last Friday to the Black Sea port of Batumi.

Shooting broke out after the pilots fooled the hijackers about their route and landed at Tbilisi again. Three crew members were killed, the source said, as well as one of the hijackers who was believed to have shot himself.

Georgian television announced the incident over the weekend but said only that a "number of people" had died. The source said that there were five men and three women among the hijackers, some of them the children of prominent Georgian officials and cultural figures.

They went to the airport after a wedding party in Tbilisi with the bride and groom.

The crew members who died were the chief pilot, the flight mechanic and a stewardess.

Government officials have been told that the hijack appeared to have been well prepared. An investigation has been launched into how the group by-passed strict security controls and smuggled weapons on to the airliner.

Eanes crumbles and sacks army chief

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Submitting to pressure from the Government, President Eanes of Portugal yesterday reluctantly dismissed the Army Chief of Staff, General Garcia dos Santos. His decision came four months after the Cabinet of Mario Soares had first asked for the general's dismissal.

General dos Santos, who is 47, played a prominent role in the army coup that restored democracy to Portugal in 1947. He was the last of the predominantly left-wing army officers who took part in it to retain a high active post in the armed forces.

He has been a strong supporter of Portugal's role in Nato, but has often publicly criticized the alliance partners for failing to give adequate material aid to the Portuguese military.

President Eanes, who had appointed General dos Santos to head the army, chose to ignore the Cabinet's request last July to dismiss him. He was finally forced to comply this week after Dr Soares wrote a letter saying that the Cabinet's wish should be carried out within two weeks.

The President's spokesman said: "The decision to acquiesce to the wishes of the Government over a problem not of the President's making was taken to prevent conflict at a time when the country is experiencing serious difficulties."

The tension has its basis in the fact that under the constitution the President and the government are elected separately. President Eanes, a left-leaning political independent, has twice been elected by large majorities. No single political party has been able to win an overall majority in parliamentary elections.

Dr Soares's first minority government fell in 1977. His second government - split apart

in the summer of 1978. When he refused to resign as Prime Minister, President Eanes dismissed him. The two have since clashed both publicly and behind the scenes.

The right-of-centre coalition governments which came after the Socialist-Christian Democrat coalition were thwarted at every turn by President Eanes, who vetoed their laws as unconstitutional according to the Marxist-oriented constitution then in effect.



President Eanes: Personal conflict with Government.

Last year, the political parties worked together on a revision of the constitution which stripped the President of many of his powers - including the right to appoint a chief of staff of the armed forces.

A new defence law put the armed forces squarely under the order of the civilian Minister of Defence. The Council of the revolution, made up of the officers who carried out the 1974 revolution and which has been influential in the years that followed, was dissolved.

Although the majority of the armed forces are now non-political, many officers openly expressed their fears that this government and the previous right-of-centre Government were bent on undoing many of the changes wrought by the revolution.

Another reason President Eanes gave for giving-in to the demands of the Government to dismiss General dos Santos was that he wanted to prevent a conflict, the was essentially between himself and the Government from extending to include all of the armed forces.

Naples poll blow to the left

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Sighs of relief from coalition parties marked the declaration of results in a round of regional and municipal elections in Italy. The Communists, however, were punished losing Naples.

The Government was certainly in need of stimulus. In particular, the Christian Democrats were anxious for a good showing to prove that their general election setback in June was temporary.

The regional results showed a drop in the Christian Democrat vote but only of 2.5 per cent compared with the last regional elections in 1978.

In Naples the party won back a chunk of the votes lost in the general election. In Reggio Calabria it dropped a little by comparison with June but remained well ahead of any other party. On balance, the country's largest party can be said to have stemmed fears of vote disintegration.

Signor Bettino Craxi, the country's first Socialist Prime Minister, required good results to give credence to the historic change which his premiership entails.

The Socialists held their position in Trentino-Alto Adige and advanced in Naples and Reggio Calabria and the Republicans also either lost nothing or won ground. The real surprise was the Communist failure.

The Communists have now lost Naples which they had administered for the past eight years and, in Reggio Calabria, they fell back 8 per cent by comparison with the June election.

The sounding of the electoral was in fact strictly limited - under a million voters were involved and the one region concerned, Trentino-Alto Adige, can scarcely be regarded as typical because of its special ethnic problems on the northern frontier.

Yet great importance was attached to the contests because they represented the first electoral test faced by Signor Craxi's Government since its formation five months ago. Interest was enhanced by the Government's internal difficulties and Signor Craxi's own uncertain handling of them.

While others were toying with the idea we forged ahead with business development

Say hello to the Fortune System 32.16. The remarkably powerful desktop computer that the magazine Practical Computing said 'could well replace a minicomputer for most office purposes, and described as 'much more user friendly than the average computer'.

It's not altogether surprising, since the Fortune System 32.16 is not your average computer.

Whereas most micro computer hardware and software today is derived from the home/hobby computers of a few years ago, the Fortune System 32.16 was designed specifically for small to medium sized businesses, or departments of large companies.

Based on the highly successful Motorola MC68000 microprocessor chip, it looks like a micro, is as easy to use as a micro, and costs a typically micro price. Yet it behaves more like a minicomputer. The operating system it uses, for example, is UNIX, the powerful and internationally accepted system normally found only on large computer systems.

It's a genuine multi-user computer. Your first workstation can be easily expanded to a number of workstations complete with multiple printers. All users are supported with up to 1 megabyte of main memory, 31 megabytes internal disk storage, and a range of built-in expansion options.

There's also a stand alone executive

workstation model with all the full system facilities, available at a very low 'entry' price.

It can communicate with other terminals, minicomputers or mainframes, locally or remotely, as well as supporting a wide range of advanced programming languages such as Cobol, Fortran, Basic and Pascal.

For business applications there's a range of well-proven software packages for accounting, database management, financial modelling and forecasting. In addition, the keyboard features a large number of dedicated function keys for word processing. Fortune Word is already recognised as one of the most comprehensive yet simple to use W.P. packages on the market.

Your Fortune computer system is supported by a countrywide network of maintenance engineers who provide rapid, on-site service.

To see how this thoroughbred business computer could

make a major contribution to your business efficiency, now and far into the future, simply fill in the coupon. We'll send you the full facts on the Fortune System 32.16.

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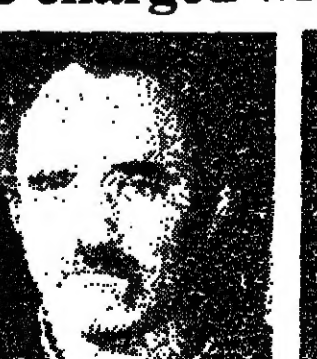
British cabbie charged with murder

Los Angeles (AP) - A British cab driver apparently implicated himself in a voluntary statement about the disappearance of six people, the Los Angeles Times said yesterday. He indicated that the victims may be buried in the desert north of here.

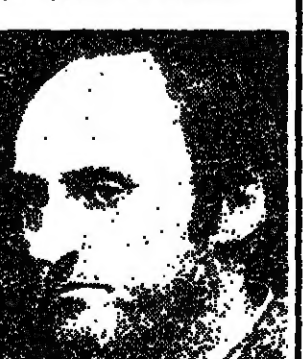
Ashley Francois Paule, aged 43, of London, was charged on Monday with six counts of first-degree murder in the disappearance last year of six San Fernando Valley residents.

Mr Paule, who was allegedly in southern California during the disappearances, returned here with a Scotland Yard detective to make a statement.

The District Attorney, Mr Robert Philibosian, said evidence indicated that Peter Davis, aged 55, and his wife,



Mr Rader: Released after four days.



Mr Paule: Believed to have implicated himself.

Joan, aged 45, were killed during a burglary at their Granada Hills home in March last year.

On October 12, 1982, Elaine Salomon, aged 39, her daughter, Michelle and her son Mitchell,

were killed in their Northridge home during another burglary. The Superior Court ordered that Mr Paule be held without bail. Charges were not filed against Mr Rader and he was released on Monday.

Brandy goes to Hongkong's head

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

Alcoholism is a growing social problem in Hongkong as local Chinese follow the heavy drinking habits of foreign residents.

Since the mid-1970s Hongkong has become the world's

largest per capita consumer of brandy and the fifth largest in overall terms, importing 400,000 cases of brandy a year - about one bottle for every man, woman and child.

Mr Lachlan MacQuarrie, head of the Hongkong Polytechnic School of Social Work,

said - a recent survey has shown a switch from taking Chinese wine with meals to Western beverages.

Hongkong, according to Mr MacQuarrie, was likely to resemble Japan, where alcoholism has become a social problem

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SPECTRUM

Design for high living

Georgina Howell meets David Milnaric, one of Britain's leading interior designers, a perfectionist who believes that decoration should become an integral part of the building

For a designer who never aims at grandeur, David Milnaric decorates an awful lot of palaces. He is at the moment at work on the British embassy in Paris, a first category monument and the residence of Napoleon's sister, Pauline Borghese, until the Duke of Wellington bought it complete with contents soon after Waterloo. In London he is redecorating the magnificent Aspinall Curzon House Club before beginning work in the Brussels embassy, an eighteenth century court house remodelled between the wars and filled with imported Viennese rococo.

One of Britain's leading interior designers, he is also a frequent adviser to the National Trust, and produces garden furniture with the Duchess of Devonshire from Paxton's workshop at Chatsworth. He already has so much work under way for 1984 that he could only fit your Queen Anne hunting box or Park Lane flat into his schedule with difficulty. Even if you were prepared to wait, and to pay, you might be disappointed. Several times over the last few years David Milnaric has been summoned to country houses, and even abroad, and having been dined and wined and taken all over the house has finally said, "Leave it as it is." It is not unusual for him to reduce the commission to a single contribution - mixing up a pot of paint to reconcile incompatible upholstery and curtains, or applying a coat of varnish to tone down a wall that is too bright - because he does not regard himself so much as an arbiter of taste as an upholder of architectural values. As Christopher Gibbs, antique furniture dealer and old friend, puts it: "He flays the room down to the bones. He is the antithesis of the interior decorator who enters a room and says, 'Magenta here, dear'." On the other hand, if he takes your house on he will not rest until he has achieved some kind of perfection, which he defines as decoration responding so directly to the architecture that it becomes an integral part of the building. He is a perfectionist in a medium whose resolutions are reached through trial and error. Miles of calico are sacrificed to the six or seven toiles he will make for curtains before his team is permitted to cut into velvet or damask, and he recently sent back

some French curtain-trimming 16 times before he was satisfied with the colour and weight.

Milnaric made his name in the 1960s with work of a very different kind. Good at bold, quick effects, he was particularly successful with ingenious settings for dances, such as a Chinese pavilion in peacock blue fretwork with good lanterns, a masterpiece of battenning, gauze and gold cardboard, or a bandstand of orange and yellow ribbons supported by matching gas-filled balloons. Caught up in the vortex of London life, he was soon decorating houses for Mick Jagger, George Harrison and Eric Clapton; he once advised a client to paint his entire flat in purple and lime green.

The son of a furrier who arrived in England before the First World War from Slovenia (later Yugoslavia), Milnaric was educated at Downside, where he remembers admiring the fine Gothic lines of the nineteenth-century abbey church. His original intention was to be an architect, but after two terms he transferred to the Bartlett School of Decoration where he was taught on the "good old Beaux Arts principle" of seeing through drawing.

He began by removing acres of gold paint

For six months we drew an elevation of three columns of the Parthenon measured to scale and coloured with Chinese ink washes. When we had got that right, we moved on. Three years later he took his portfolio, complete with the last school project, a golf club restaurant, to Hicks, Fowler and Inchbald in search of a job. Fowler was the only firm to turn him down, ironically since Milnaric was to step into John Fowler's shoes as National Trust adviser when he died in 1977. He was taken on as office boy at Michael Inchbald, where he extended a two-month trial into two years before leaving the country to spend six months measuring and drawing buildings in Rome. When he ran out of money in Paris on the way home he had to go to the British embassy for help and found himself examining with interest the outside of the building he would redecorate 20 years later.

"When I got back to Victoria Station I saw London with Roman eyes. I can remember how homely, small-scale and agreeable it looked, with that good old W1 muddle of white stone and red brick." He was now only one move away from setting up on his own. From an educational stint in an architect's office learning the practical details, he took John Singer Sargent's former studio in Tite Street and moved in with one commission, to remodel and



David Milnaric: "The British are genuinely envious for their sometimes down-at-heel way of life" (Photograph by Don McCullin)

rededicate a flat in Cadogan Square. "For the first time I knew the satisfaction of upgrading a set of rooms by removing the postwar conversions and restoring the proper proportions."

One job well done led to another, eventually to his first important house, Millicote Park, an 1830 Greek Revival house in Shropshire which had been a school and now needed to be tailored to the requirements of a young family. The finished house was seen by Country Life's architectural writer, historian John Cornforth, who was impressed by the way David Milnaric had used paint to stress the architectural values of the great hall, and was instrumental in bringing him to the attention of the National Trust.

The Trust commissions began with Beningbrough Hall in Yorkshire, a handsome eighteenth-century house that had survived virtually intact and was being prepared to receive the National Portrait Gallery loan of a fine collection of portraits. Milnaric stepped in at an early stage after John Fowler's death, and began by removing acres of gold paint from the Great Hall, and stripping 150 years of paint from the columns. "It seemed that the simpler it was, the better it looked."

Most of Milnaric's clients today are the well-heeled British, America and French, which has given him a certain insight into the difference between the nationalities and the way they live.

"To American women, housekeeping is a discipline second to none. The presentation is a daily ritual, with fresh flowers, new books, scent sprayed around, pictures moved week by week. Their clothes are equally trim, but one suspects that a Mrs Regan is more interested in the straightness of her hem than the fabric."

The French, he says, are the most stylish of all. Their drawing rooms are the grandest: "It would be unthinkable to find the children jumping on the sofa or a dog lying in front of the fire." The lifestyle of both nationalities, he says, requires enormous effort and can be a tyranny. The British are genuinely envious for their comfortable, undemanding, sometimes rather down-at-heel way of life. "We love sash windows, turned bannisters and moulded panel doors. This must be the only country where even architects prefer to live in Victorian houses."

His own family are just an open door away from his present office, a Chelsea studio with a gallery and great dark green fireplace, and any of his three children might pick up the phone. The portrait that hangs over the fire is by Rex Whistler of Mrs Milnaric's mother, Angela Dudley Ward, later Lady Laycock, and her sister Penelope.

After 23 years of work, Milnaric has become adept at striking a balance between the architectural requirements

of a building and its present purpose. Embassies, he says, are working houses, not museum pieces to be judged by their historical accuracy. In Washington, where the embassy is a Lutens house, he decorated the drawing room for the then ambassador, Lady Henderson. "My first response to a Lutens is to be very calm and quiet. But as the room was used for shaking hands before dinner with an enormous number of guests, we treated it in a different way and made it as warm, light and welcoming as possible."

In Paris, on the other hand, the accuracy of the Empire decoration was the point. "It is on a par with the decoration you can see at Compiègne, Malmaison, Fontainebleau and the German embassy so carefully restored after the war. It was a tightly defined style with a life of only 14 years. Madame Recamier would have had it, a nobleman living in the Auvergne would not." After months of careful detective work, Milnaric and John Cornforth, who now reappeared as the Foreign Office's consultant on historic buildings, discovered that the loom and jacquard for the correct Empire damask still existed in England and were able to recreate the wall hangings for the Salon Rouge. Apart from the obvious difference between working on an embassy and a private home, Milnaric found that the embassy meant mountains of paperwork. "The Property Services Agency operate their formula whether you are doing up a palace of a police station. Why should we be any different? For chrome taps read gold leaf."

I'm beginning to believe in the craft revival

He is concerned for the grammar and vocabulary of architecture which has almost disappeared, and believes that most people can sense an anomaly even if they can't identify it. "For instance, there's a very good eighteenth-century building under the flyover at Hammersmith which is a bus station. Good English baroque with two great garage doors bashed in it for the buses. Anyone could see that the elevation was wrong even if they didn't know how it was meant to be." If we lack an indigenous progressive style, he says, it is because of our disregard for the old architectural values, and the arrogant assumption that we can leap blind into the future.

Nevertheless, he views the post-Comran world with confidence. "The new generation takes an enormous interest in design although they can't afford quality, which has become today's great luxury. They are bored with The Real Thing - terracotta tiles on the floor, scrubbed pine tables and earthenware bread crocks. They want cheap, effective glamour: Jostina Jones' Paint Magic, swag curtains in calico. As usual, the retailers are far behind the customers and the designers."

At his own rarified level of decoration, he says: "There are never enough skilled people, although you can find a great range of crafts if you are prepared to wait. Working on site at Curzon House the other day alongside bricklayers, painters, glaziers and plasterers, I suddenly realised that for the first time in years there were more young people present than old. I'm beginning to believe in the craft revival."

moreover... Miles Kington You can't boycott Boycott

The rest of the Sports News. Ex-king Geoffrey, 1 of Yorkshire, was adamant in exile today that he would be back, even after the bloodless coup that deposed him while he was on a state visit to South Africa. "Make no mistake about it, I shall be back," he said from his numbered Swiss chalet in the hills above Geneva. "My people will rise and overthrow the new government and then I will return. Make no mistake about it. I shall be back."

Although the English football team has been knocked out of the European Championship, the English fans are safely through to the next round, where they will meet the French police. Johnny Thunder, manager of the England fan squad, had no apologies to make for the alleged rough behaviour of his men in Luxembourg after their thrilling victory against the Luxembourg Army.

"At this level of football supporting you don't take prisoners, I thought our lads were magnificent. This is what the Falklands spirit is all about - marching into a place and messing it up a bit before sorting it out."

Yorkshire rebel leader Yasser Boycott was being driven deeper into the northern hills last night, as loyalist committee members brought their heavy communications into action against rebel members. Civilian damage has been heavy: many families are reported to have fled to the pubs to get away from the incessant exchanges round the dinner table. But Boycott will be hard to dislodge entirely; his position is impenetrable, not to say impenetrable, not to say dead end. Our front-line correspondent reports: "This beautiful county, so tragically divided by warring groups, now lies in ruins..." (continued yesterday)

Another great night for European soccer tonight, as the British clubs go into action to avenge the national exit from the European stage. M6 Wanderers have the hardest task against an in-form Dynamo Service Area of Holland, who put out Sporting Bolland in the last round; star striker Jackie Robson reported with two fractured legs, this morning but hopes to come through a late fitness test. Glasgow Presbyterians should have no difficulty in building up a 3-0 deficit away to Dresden Atheists while Glen Shamrock carry Irish hopes to faraway Turash Spjot in Albania.

Wild rumours are flying round Yorkshire as to the health of ailing statesman Yuri Boycott, who has not been seen in public since sensational reports of his dismissal first started two months ago. He was conspicuous by his absence from the annual parade of Yorkshire pre-war trophies, nor was he to be seen during the Hutton birthday celebrations, when traditionally all Yorkshiremen go out and get mauling. Is he dead? Has he finally been run out by someone else? Or is he, as the latest rumour says, bating on alone on some distant pitch, 34 not out on the fourth day?

The announcement of a prize for any international rugby team that scores more points with tries than penalty kicks has been greeted in all informed quarters as a practical joke. Or, if it is true, it is given no more chance of success than last year's trophy for any journalist who could honestly start a rugby report without saying: "Although perhaps totally lacking in handling and running skills, this match was the most exciting for many a long year."

General Boycott, architect of Yorkshire's defeats last year, is to be court-martialled for his part in the county's disgrace, it was announced yesterday. The general, who is under house arrest by an unnamed newspaper, was not free to comment last night. (Coming soon: extracts from a sensational new book, Spotting the Chinaman, in which it is claimed that Geoffrey Boycott was recruited as a youth by an unnamed foreign power. Only in Moreover, a sub-division of Mark McCormack Worldwide.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 209)

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Object of superstition (6) | 1 High-pitched flute (4) |
| 4 Red salad vegetable (6) | 2 Three-month period (9) |
| 7 Toss (4) | 3 Women's quarter's |
| 8 Hapazardly (8) | 4 Endivier (5) |
| 9 Porcelain art (8) | 5 Open to debate (4) |
| 12 Gossipy woman (3) | 6 Naval vessel symbol (5) |
| 15 Regional dialect (6) | 10 Maxim (5) |
| 16 Walk aid (6) | 11 Gutter fabric (5) |
| 17 Prominent rock (3) | 12 Likely to kill (9) |
| 19 Unbranded call (8) | 13 Answer (4) |
| 24 Granite (8) | 14 Location (4) |
| 25 Timber cutting tool (4) | 15 Small (5) |
| 26 Mythical monster (6) | 20 Unlawful burning (5) |
| 27 Fill (6) | 21 Contamination (5) |
| | 22 Longhouse (4) |
| | 23 Sancy (4) |

SOLUTION TO No 208
 ACROSS: 1 Spills 5 Beck 8 Ritz 9 Obvious 11 Intimate 13 Bawl 15 Potentate 18 None 19 Operator 22 Accuser 23 Curse 24 Dons 25 Yippee
 DOWN: 2 Feti 3 Lay 4 Shooting party 5 Bery 6 Choral 7 Trail 10 Salt 12 Most 14 F 15 Panache 16 Anna 17 Frena 20 Tame 21 Isle 23 Cop

David Miller

Trying to go faster than Concorde - without leaving the ground

I was with some surprise that the mechanics who supervised the successful British attempt to recapture the world land speed record would pull back the cockpit cover of Thrust 2, after a near-supersonic run, to find the driver, far from being reduced to the semblance of a pallid aspen leaf, sitting there writing notes about the car's performance.

Ever since Richard Noble was six years old, and saw John Cobb's water speed record boat Crusader on Loch Ness, it was his ambition "to drive a vehicle of outrageous horse power." Thirty-one years later, not much has changed. He still has that wide-eyed, uncomplicated enthusiasm which makes adventurous small boys such splendid companions.

While tens of thousands of people were absorbed last summer in the British campaign for the America's Cup, Noble was less conspicuously, but more hair-raisingly, engaged in relieving the United States of another sports trophy whose equally dramatic

history is woven around such celebrated figures as Henry Segrave, Malcolm Campbell, George Eyston, Cobb and Donald Campbell. His recapture of the record, with the assistance of some 220 sponsors and contributors, at speeds faster than any civil aircraft other than Concorde, is a remarkable story going back to the start of the pipe-dream in 1974.

With the record now standing at phenomenal 633 mph, Noble is convinced that when the Americans have recaptured it in a few years, the next British bid will have to be at supersonic speed well above 760 mph. He has promised his wife Sally that he will not drive again, but he will be impatient to put all his knowledge and experience behind making a new project. "We'll find a driver and train him," he says with a grin, confident of discovering another adult school-boy. Finding 220 industrial and commercial backers is as important as finding a driver, Noble cannot privately finance his particular hobby.

After school at Winchester, he sold paint and then Crimphole fibres for ICI - £60m a year of the stuff for three years - until he feared he was in danger of becoming as boring as Crimphole, and set off with four girls and another man on an expedition, London-to-Cape Town, in a 13-year-old Land Rover. His explanation of the four girls is that they were more free of ties than most men: he married one of them. In 1974, while working for Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, he decided on Project Thrust. There would be a series of three cars: an experimental jet, then a vehicle sufficiently capable of demonstrating high performance to gain financial backing, then the record attempt. Noble sold his domestic motor car, bought a motorcycle and garnered £1,000 capital. Thrust 1, with a Rolls-Royce Derwent 8 engine from a Meteor fighter, a knock-down at £200, and assembled in a garage at Thames Ditton, achieved nearly 200 mph and a testing noise-level which vibrated the neighbours out of bed.

Thrust 1 came to an abrupt end in 1977, when a wheel-bearing failed at Fairford airfield, and the car triple-flipped upside down. Noble undid his seat belt, fell out on his head unharmed, and was left with nothing more than £175 of scrap value. Yet the seeds of interest had been sown: the RAF took note, and when he lectured to senior officers at Adastral House, Noble was asked how they might



The next British bid will have to be at supersonic speed well above 760 mph

help. He said: "How about an obsolete Lightning?" The Ministry of Defence duly made available an Avon 210 and, begging a truck and a crane, Noble transported it to Twickenham. The problem now was to build a vehicle around the 34,000-hp engine eight times as powerful as Bluebird, with a 650 mph capability.

Unqualified to design it himself, and with no money to advertise, Noble put out a press release: "Sir, vac., 650mph car designer," and received 160 replies. Eventually John Ackroyd began work in an "office" rented for £5 a week in a derelict house. Advertising at the Motor Fair at Earls Court, Noble had an interview with representatives from Tube Investments. They arrived at midday instead of 3pm. Our adventurer felt obliged to entertain them to lunch, and after paying the £65 bill, project Thrust was flat broke. An hour later they had agreed to underwrite and build the tubular frame.

Noble continued his employment with GKN, working on Thrust from

5.30am to breakfast and from supper-time to midnight. Initial Services laundry had put in a substantial sponsorship but by early 1980, with the car scheduled to run in May, the project was three weeks short of closure through the pressure of bills. Noble was obliged to face Initial Services' directors with the truth, only to discover they had doubled their cheque before the meeting began. Now GKN gave him 18 months paid leave. British Aerospace provided wind-tunnel testing facilities and a more advanced Avon 320 engine was bought.

But the setbacks continued. At Bonneville Salt Flats in the US the next year, Thrust 2 exceeded 500mph, only for flooding of the dried lake to halt its progress. Preparing for a new attempt in 1982, Noble crashed the car at 100mph when testing at Greenham Common airfield, the parachute brake failing, and the damage required a £50,000 refit. Arriving late at Bonneville, the car was not even unloaded; it was raining, and the flooding was measured in feet rather than inches.

"We felt we couldn't return home and face the sponsors without running the car," so John Ackroyd went north to look at Alford Lake in Oregon, and I went south to Black Rock Desert at Gerlach, north-east of Reno in Nevada. We chose Black Rock. "No one has ever raced on the mud flats, which are washed by a swamp tide, which in summer dries out leaving a 15-mile flat surface on billions of saucer-sized polygons. These have a slight movement, which cushions the solid aluminium wheels perfectly."

They planned to run in June, 1983, but the mud had not dried. Ackroyd went as advance reconnaissance to report daily on the state of the wicket; the 250 population of

Gerlach's little railway town got busy with posters and streamers; now the Bureau of Land Management gave environmental approval, and the schoolchildren expectantly wanted mornings off and a free seat in the world's largest stadium.

Eventually, Thrust 2 arrived in late August after its £20,000 air ferry in a 747 freighter to Los Angeles, and the team of 26 started the laborious job of preparing the 16 lanes of 50 widths each - which can be used more than once - at a rate of five miles a day, removing every stone as big as a cigarette end, plus a few unexploded shells. On a slim budget, every day counted.

"Two runs a day are a maximum, you are so drained afterwards," admits Noble, who has undergone intensive training with the Royal Military Police, achieving Grade A in the army physical fitness assessment after severe work with weights, swimming and running, tearing a knee cartilage on the way.

Run 11, starting at 15.30 on October 4, with a 5½-mile approach run, produced speed of 624.241 mph over a measured mile. The return run, with a six-mile approach and the decibels exceeding bearable pain limits, lifted to 642.971 mph with a maximum 650.88. As the 1,500R high dust-cowl settled on the cheering crowd of 200, the record was Britain's with a 633.468 average.

With the moment of history now gone, he is left, when driving down English motorways, with uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms. Thrust 2, after exhibitions, will retire to the Beaulieu Museum; the spare wheels and brick-brac of an historic project will be auctioned next month by Christie's, the proceeds shared by the crew. And Nobel pipe-dreams about a car "which will do something really big - say between 900 and 1,000 mph."

THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES

Justices of the Peace in England and Wales are appointed by the Lord Chancellor except in the counties of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside where they are appointed by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Appointments are made on the recommendation of local Advisory Committees.

The Committees welcome nominations of persons in all walks of life who are thought to have the qualities and time to serve as a Justice of the Peace. Any person or body may recommend a candidate for appointment. Recommendation forms and information on the selection process and what is involved in being a Justice of the Peace are available from the Secretary of the local Advisory Committee. His name and address are obtainable from the office of the local Clerk to the Justices.

Lord Chancellor's Department Thames House North Millbank London SW1P 4QE	Duchy of Lancaster Office Lancaster Place Strand London WC2E 7ED
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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A FRONT LINE VOTE FOR CRUISE

West Germany has emitted two important signals over the past few days. First the Social Democrats formally repudiated the deployment of Pershing II and cruise missiles, thereby turning against their own former Chancellor and their own policy while in government as well as opening a crack in the bipartisan consensus on security policy which has held for more than twenty years. Then yesterday the Bundestag with a Christian Democratic majority, formally endorsed the deployment of the new missiles.

These two signals are only superficially contradictory. What they show is a country more divided and doubtful than it has been for some time yet still fundamentally loyal to the Western alliance. Even the Social Democrats have not repudiated Nato or adopted the neutralism of the fringe. They have said two things: that they do not believe these particular weapons enhance their security and that they do not feel the Americans have made sufficient effort to negotiate an agreement at Geneva.

Yet it would be foolish to pretend that they are not giving voice to broader doubts which reflect a change in the mood of the country. West Germany is in the very difficult position of being a major power in the front line of Western defence which is wholly dependent on a foreign power for its nuclear security. This was relatively easy to cope with as long as the United States enjoyed overwhelming nuclear superiority because the risk of challenge was low. With the rise of the Soviet Union to rough parity two types of doubt

emerged: that the United States might not risk its own annihilation in defence of Europe, or, alternatively, that it might try to confine a conflict to European territory. Placing new missiles in Europe was supposed to allay the first type of doubt but has at the same time exacerbated the second.

A number of factors have contributed to this. One is certainly the loss of confidence in American leadership, especially among the young, over the past decade or so. The West Germans have remained true to the policies of the mid 1960s, coordinated before Soviet behaviour in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Afghanistan, keeping contacts with the East in the hope of reducing tensions and maintaining openings to the people of East Germany. The deterioration in relations between the super powers has reduced allied support for the diplomatic track of West German policy while increasing fears that West Germany could become the helpless victim of a confrontation either in Europe or, more probably, in some other part of the world.

Fusing with these comparatively rational fears has been a modest but significant rise in support for the "Greens", who bring together a wide range of ecologists, idealists, romantics, pacifists and nationalists of left and right in general protest against so many aspects of modern life and the German situation that they are hard to disentangle. Many of the Social Democrats who voted against the missiles last week were hoping by doing so to scoop up a proportion of the Greens. This

could be a perilous exercise but not necessarily wrong if the road leads back again towards the centre before the next election.

There is a reasonable chance that it will. Opinion polls show very considerable steadiness in West German opinion, and no surge of support for neutralism. When asked to choose between close relations with the United States and close relations with the Soviet Union only a tiny percentage choose the Soviet Union. However, when asked whether West Germany should seek good relations with both super powers or more with the United States the vote splits more evenly, reflecting not neutralism but a desire to avoid conflict.

The events of the past week should therefore be seen as both a reassurance and a warning. There is reassurance in the fact that a democratically elected German government is managing to carry through the policies of the alliance. There is a warning in the divisive effects that this has had on the country in general and the Social Democrats in particular. There are two main lessons to draw from the warning. One is that the central consensus in West German politics will not hold unless it is part of a Nato consensus on East-West relations. The other is that West Germany's growing self-confidence and distance from the Nazi period are increasingly difficult to reconcile with the present structure of Nato and in particular its reliance on American nuclear weapons. How to adjust to this new reality is one of the most pressing tasks before the Alliance.

LORDS AND LANDLORDS

The Agricultural Holdings Bill, which has just begun its committee stage in the House of Lords, was introduced by the minister as a Bill "to arrest the decline in the tenanted sector of agriculture". The ambition far exceeds the modesty of the measure.

The Bill puts into legislative form a compact reached between the National Farmers Union and the Country Landowners Association. The union agreed to let go the three-generation statutory tenancy which it had been keen on at the time of its introduction seven years ago. The association agreed to a new formula for arbitration at rent reviews for sitting tenants, which moves away from open market letting value (there no longer being anything answering that description) and towards the value of the productive capacity of the holding.

The introduction of the right of succession to tenancies in 1976 has not significantly altered the rate of decline in the number of rented holdings (about 3,000 a year). Perhaps the number of new lettings lost by the measure was roughly balanced by the number of unwillingly extended tenancies over land that would otherwise have been taken in hand. But there are strong *a priori* grounds and much anecdotal evidence for believing that the succession right would have accelerated the decline of the landlord and tenant system in the longer term. So its abolition for new tenancies, as provided in

the Bill, is a positive factor towards willingness to let.

Experts disagree about the probable effect on rents of the proposed new formula for arbitration. If it has any effect it is more likely to be downwards than upwards, and thus a negative factor against willingness to let.

All in all the Bill can hardly be expected to make much impression on a declining trend that has been pronounced since the end of the First World War. The Northfield committee (1979) reckoned that the rented sector would decline over the next 40 years from 35-40 per cent of all farm land to 20-25 per cent. And of the course the number of holdings within the total acreage dwindles even faster as profit dictates amalgamation of the smaller units.

The decline of the landlord and tenant system of farm occupancy is regretted; rightly so, for it has served British agriculture well for most of its recorded history. It promotes an efficient division between and within two inputs, capital and managerial skill in husbandry. It has contributed to the social solidity of rural England. It has, less now than once, extended a means of entry into farming for capability able to only moderate resources.

It is plain that to restore that form of tenure to anything like its former state, even to keep it where it is, it would be necessary (it might not be sufficient) to make fundamental changes in the tax position of private

landowners. It would mean treating that form of rent and that form of capital much more favourably than other forms. It would not be easy to make a case in public benefit for so large an exception.

Still, there is more to be done than this Bill does to retard the erosion of rented tenure and help to put in place an alternative "farming ladder" for non-hereditary talent through management, share-farming and partnerships leading on in some cases to tenancies. There is room for the restricted reintroduction of term tenancies and for a retirement scheme that would pave the way for tenancies to be terminable at the age of 65. And the Government should have a much more positive policy towards statutory smallholdings. The financial squeeze on county councils tempts them to sell on vacancy, limiting still further the opportunities for beneficial occupation of agricultural land in a small way.

Ministers have so far shown no enthusiasm for building on their Bill or doing anything that might disturb the limited NFU-CLA concordat. That agreement, they say, is the best insurance against repeal by a future Labour government. But interest groups can change their mind, as the NFU already has in this matter, and the legislature, however it may respect views of interest groups, is not, should not be, bound by them. There is much work to be done on the Bill of a kind the House of Lords is peculiarly fitted to do.

STILL A CULTURAL COMMITMENT

The English and Welsh now have such a cultural commitment to home ownership, that, perhaps inevitably, renting in both public and private sectors should be considered a residual tenure. For council housing that is the conclusion to be drawn from the budgetary provisions announced in aggregate last week and to be notified to local authorities in detail tomorrow. Capital spending by councils and housing associations has become a fiscal residual to be whittled away as a departmental offering to the Treasury to counteract the global "excess" of council spending. The state's assistance with housing costs to the poor and those on low incomes was the one part of the welfare programme to be singled out for specific reductions: fairness and consistency are jettisoned as guiding principles.

There is, to be sure, a strong case for abandoning the preoccupation of the post-war inter-party consensus on housing. It extolled scale, and heaped praise on ministers delivering huge increases in the public housing stock with scant regard for either economic balance or tenants' interest. The role of local authorities in housing in the 1980s should be characterized by

a lightness of touch; a willingness to become "entrepreneurial," intervening in the market to buy, re-furbish and sell, to provide for such groups as the elderly and handicapped for whom the private market has little to offer. But it would be wrong to extend this conception and write off public sector tenants who have not exercised their right to buy as an encumbrance.

It would be short-sighted, too, if policy were based on the present gross surplus of dwellings over households continuing unchanged into the future. The growth of single-person and single-parent households is rapid. In itself this is no recipe for large-scale construction, but it does point to increased demand (monetary or expressed in council waiting lists) later in the decade - demand which can only be accommodated by a shake-out of the housing stock.

Yet the figures presented for 1984-85 show the government extraordinarily complacent on this very account. Mr Jenkin says blandly that the private sector will provide the bulk of "new starts" (but has he fully worked out the town and country planning consequences of this free rein for private development?). His colleagues

add, equally blandly, that there is enough money in the kitty to provide home improvement grants for private owners when the rate of deterioration in our ageing housing stock will accelerate.

The fact is that during the past twelve months housing policy has exhibited a volatility that makes sensible planning impossible. Capital outlays for next year are to be reduced although the windfall gains of capital receipts from the right to buy programme provide a soft cushion. Twelve months ago the Treasury appeared - in its own ten year forward look at spending - to have accepted the hard evidence from the English House Conditions Survey of the need for a minimum and consistent level of public investment in the housing stock: already the consistency has gone.

What is difficult to justify is squeezing public sector tenants at the very moment when the fruits of the government's enhancement of mortgage tax relief are being enjoyed by owner occupiers in the higher income and property bands. The statistical dominance of mortgage-payers is no reason for injustice to council tenants.

False dilemma on public investment

From Professor W. H. Butler

Sir, Your excellent reporting (November 16) of the joint seminar by The Times and Coopers and Lybrand on public sector investment stands in sad contrast to your very uninformative editorial on the same topic.

You state: "The high level of unemployment and unused industrial capacity suggests that the Government might be wise to increase public sector investment in the next few years, even at the expense of its commitment to sound financial policies." Thus the false dilemma is posed.

It should be clear, even to your editorial writer, that if there is indeed a "high level of unemployment" and unused industrial capacity, then a fiscal expansion can, given the proper mix of monetary financing and borrowing, be financed without creating inflationary pressures and without "crowding out" of private spending. Absent real resource scarcity, "crowding out" is simply evidence of financial mismanagement. This argument holds true for any kind of fiscal expansion, whether in the form of tax cuts, higher public sector consumption or increased public sector capital formation.

In a fully employed economy "crowding out" is complete in the short run, regardless of the financing mix chosen. The longer-run development of the economic system is dependent on the mix of money, credit and tax financing actually chosen.

This complete short-run "crowding out" says nothing about the desirability, or lack of it, of increased public sector investment, which depends on its anticipated future rate of return, the uncertainty surrounding it and its opportunity cost in terms of private investment or consumption forgone.

A selective increase in public sector investment would, in the view of many, be called for even if full British economy were at full employment. The reason is not, as your editorial suggests rather vacuously, that "public sector investment is a good thing". Aspirin

is, by itself, not "a good thing". It does, however, help when one has a headache, provided care is taken to avoid an upset tummy.

Public sector investment is no different. General government fixed capital formation has declined by almost 65 per cent in volume terms since its peak in 1973. Net public sector fixed investment in assets other than dwellings was insignificantly different from zero in 1982. Few would argue that the United Kingdom is overendowed with infrastructure.

The statistical evidence of underinvestment and indeed of decumulation of capital is reinforced by simple anecdotal and impressionistic evidence of a country lumbered with an antiquated, often obsolete and crumbling stock of social overhead capital.

Not only does this contribute to the prevailing drabness and shabbiness that characterizes so much of the British living and working environment, it is also bound to constitute a major obstacle to sustained recovery and higher economic growth.

Both cyclical and structural arguments favour a major expansion in infrastructure investment. The Times-Coopers and Lybrand conference provided evidence of a wide range of potentially high-yielding investment projects.

The current Government's short-sighted obsession with that most misapplied of financial indicators, the GNP, means that even worthwhile projects which are self-financing over a number of years are discriminated against. Any new scheme which yields a return that does not take the form of a cash inflow into the public sector stands no chance at all.

Yet it surely is the total return that matters (including any reduction in involuntary idleness of labour and capital), no matter to whom it accrues.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM BUTLER,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2,
November 17.

The Nilsen case

From Mrs Susanne Dell

Sir, David Nicholson-Lord is right to say (feature, November 5) that the law has come out of the Nilsen case "looking a bit of a clodhopper." For that is exactly what the law on diminished responsibility is. The defence was developed as a device for circumventing the difficulties that flow from a mandatory penalty for murder. That penalty means that judges who sentence sane murderers are unable to take even the most powerful mitigating circumstances (such as severe mental illness) into account.

The 1957 Act therefore introduced a stratagem for getting round the problem: two special defences to murder, provocation and abnormality of mind. These two circumstances are of course common factors in most sorts of crime but, because of the mandatory penalty, the courts cannot take them into account in the sentencing of murder cases. So the 1957 Act elevated these two factors to a special status in murder proceedings, a status that changes one crime - murder - into another one - manslaughter. Murder, of course, carries no mandatory penalty.

In offences that have no manda-

tory sentence the judge considers mitigating circumstances after conviction and before sentencing. If medical information is presented at this stage it will not consist of philosophical argument, but will focus on issues germane to the sentencing process, including the practicality or otherwise of a hospital order being made.

The Homicide Act precludes this approach in murder cases. The psychiatric evidence cannot be presented in the ordinary way after conviction; for it to be considered at all, the defence has to show that the case falls within the Act's diminished-responsibility definition. It is the wording of this which forces the argument in court to take the unreal, semantic, Alice in Wonderland form to which your correspondent and others have referred.

Now, after Parliament has so decisively confirmed the abolition of the death penalty for murder, is an excellent time also to sweep away its associated relics, the mandatory sentence and the diminished-responsibility defence. It will then be possible for murder to be processed in the courts in the same way as other serious crimes.

Yours faithfully,
SUSANNE DELL,
4 Reynolds Close, NW11.

Airline competition

From Mr Gordon Dunlop

Sir, In Sir Adam Thomson's letter (November 17) he asserts that British Airways has benefited from a Treasury subsidy of £251m against currency fluctuations on dollar borrowings. It is not stated how this amount of £251m is calculated, but it is presumably a reference to the arrangements under which the Treasury provides cover against exchange rate fluctuations on foreign currency borrowings, which the Treasury approved British Airways entering into in the past.

These arrangements equally applied to similar foreign currency borrowings by other nationalised industries. The Treasury provide this exchange risk cover in connection with their management of foreign currency reserves. So far as British Airways is concerned and indeed other nationalised industries, the borrowings are in effect sterling

loans on which interest is paid at normal UK public sector lending rates.

There is, therefore, no subsidy. British Airways does have other foreign currency borrowings, which are not subject to Treasury cover against exchange risk, and full provision has been made in the accounts of British Airways for the subsequent currency changes on these.

On another point, while British Airways remains technically insolvent, its deficit at March 31, 1983, of £221m is now reduced to £59m as a result of profits earned after all charges in the half-year to September 30, 1983.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON DUNLOP,
Chief Financial Officer,
British Airways,
PO Box 10,
Heathrow Airport,
Hounslow,
Middlesex,
November 18.

The wit of Keynes

From Sir Frederic Harmer

Sir, Your recent review of the first volume of Robert Skidelsky's biography of Keynes (November 10) that flow from a mandatory penalty for murder. That penalty means that judges who sentence sane murderers are unable to take even the most powerful mitigating circumstances (such as severe mental illness) into account.

I quote the passage: "It was Keynes who held the view that 'in the long run we are all dead', a maxim framed to excuse the abandonment of rules, destructive of sound policy for the same reason as Harold Wilson's equally vicious half-truth 'a week in politics is a long time'."

Communist policies

From the General Secretary of The Communist Party of Great Britain

Sir, In your leading article of November 15 you support your attack on Minister Bruce Kent by distorting the position of the Communist Party.

You claim that we are "a political party which uses the nuclear arms campaign to promote international policies generally believed to be to the advantage of the country most dangerous to the West and most systematically inimicable to Christianity as well".

We advocate international policies which would benefit the British people. It is quite true that they would also benefit the people of the Soviet Union, of the United States, and indeed the people of the world,

Keynes was a master of the throw-away line. Many of his had wide currency for their style and wit. Some indeed became collectors' pieces as did this one. Keynes did not care for pomposity. But he enjoyed the grotesque and I am sure he would have been pleased to see it raised to the dignity of an immortal principle and enshrined in a bower of deathless purple prose.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERIC HARMER,
Tiggesfield,
Kelsale,
Saxmundham,
Suffolk.

since their prime purpose is to prevent the disaster of nuclear war. We believe that Britain should have an independent foreign policy which makes the search for disarmament a priority. Such an independent policy would exclude cruise missiles from our soil. It would involve British nuclear disarmament, not as an alternative to multilateral disarmament but as a great contribution towards it.

We urge the mutual dissolution both of Nato and the Warsaw Pact, and British withdrawal from Nato as a step towards this.

We call for comprehensive sanctions through the United Nations against the Apartheid regime in South Africa. Britain should support developing countries which are striving to achieve full independence and build their economies, instead

The 'privatization' of religion

From the Rev Dr Kenneth Slack

Sir, The harshest book review I ever saw was also the most succinct. The reviewer commented that one element was missing from the book under review which was present in all other books he had read: "It is usually known as thought", he added.

The review came to my mind as I read your extraordinary leader (November 21), curiously entitled "The way of the Cross". That the Archbishop of York's enthronement sermon on "public faith" should be the occasion for wide discussion and even strong disagreement is wholly to the good. How excellent that a Christian leader should say something so stimulating to reflection at such a time! But that you should print your strange and confused harangue as a leader is distressing.

You assert that "Society... is to be Dr Habgood's foundation for our faith". I had the honour of being in York Minster and heard the sermon: I find it difficult to believe that any rational person listening to him could believe that he held such an absurd position.

Phrases in your leader like "the essential privacy and uniqueness of religious experience" together with the pejorative references to "a sense of social responsibility, or any other collectivist euphemism which merely conceals an unconscious urge to personal power" give the clue. This leader is of the same family as the articles by Dr Roger Scruton to which we have lately been treated, with their attempts at a Hensley Henson-like rhetoric and polemic without the joy of that master's clarity of thought.

The "privatization" of religion in this fashion is as absurd as the attempt by some more extreme adherents of liberation theology to remove from Christian truth the relation between the soul and his Maker. The faith speaks to both the individual and society. The most prominent believer in our era in the exclusively private nature of religion was the late Adolf Hitler.

You head your leader "The way of the Cross". The reference, I suppose, is to the last paragraph of the leader which strangely closes with reference to some (undefined) conflict which "rages within each individual where the God of love is also the God of war (whatever that may mean)... That is the divine conflict within us. That is the way of the Cross".

May I suggest to you some reflection on the simpler but searching question of whether anyone would have troubled to crucify a Jesus who believed in a wholly private religion?

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH SLACK,
The Manse,
Allen Street, Kensington, W8.

Tax and incentives

From Mr Ian Bryant

Sir, Your comments on Thursday (November 10) re tax cuts and incentives needed to have placed greater emphasis on the high tax borne by the lower-paid, which is the major factor in producing the present anomaly of three million unemployed whilst employers cannot fill vacancies.

I speak from experience, having just postponed the addition of a new wing to my hotel, in spite of having been allocated a £46,000 grant by the English Tourist Board, largely because, having been short of staff all this year, I could not expect to find the additional staff required without incurring the further cost of increased staff accommodation and transport.

Even I would not consider a hotel in a rural location as being representative of the jobs market, when most want a 9 to 5, Monday to Friday job, but most employers I meet share my problem. For example, last night the managing director of a large American engineering company expanding a factory near by was bewailing the

Test of time

From Professor J. Green

Sir, The present Government is introducing a tax on electricity. This was predicted over 100 years ago. Mr Gladstone asked Michael Faraday about the practical worth of electricity. The reply was, "One day, Sir, you may tax it".

Yours faithfully,
J. GREEN,
Department of Zoology,
Westfield College,
University of London,
Hampstead, NW3.

Football violence

From Mr Alfred Youngs

Sir, There was a time when the name of England was respected on the field of international football. The skills of Stanley Matthews and Bobby Charlton, among others, were enjoyed and admired by European crowds and the visit of our teams looked forward to with keen anticipation.

Alas, no longer. As your Football Correspondent reports (November

of backing US efforts to destabilize and dominate them. The subservience of Mrs Thatcher and her Government to the Reagan Administration is a menace to our people.

It is our view that the threat to world peace comes from the actions and policies of the US Government. The invasion of Grenada, present developments in and around Lebanon, and insistence on sitting cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe confirm us in this view, which is increasingly shared by the British people.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON MCLENNAN,
General Secretary,
Communist Party of Great Britain,
16 St John Street, EC1,
November 21.

From Mr M. D. Cawte

Sir, In your editorial today (November 21) you make use of the term "the individual" no fewer than 13 times, excluding quotation from Dr Habgood's address; you cite God on only five occasions and then in one instance by reference to Tertullian.

It is a matter of no surprise, therefore, that your exposition of religious ideas is so weak.

There is a modern enthusiasm for the "individual". It may pass. It is particularly favoured by conservatives who know no better when it is, in fact, like so much that passes for conservatism these days, grounded in the theory of utilitarianism and thus part of the nineteenth-century liberal legacy. But it is not a term that the Church has especially favoured, nor, until our times, used very much. When it has used it, it has usually been with critical intent.

That God is personal, that man is made in the image of God, that God became Man in the person of Christ, that the Church is to be Christ's Body, that if we are a Church at all we are all members one of another - for the Christian all these are axioms; not just theories that might as well be expressed in other terms, but revealed and experienced truths embodied in formulas which have a specific force for the truths that they carry. We cannot simply substitute another term for them without doing violence to our beliefs.

To say that God is "individual" or that God became Man in the "individual" of Christ would not only be absurd but would change entirely the fundamentals of the Christian faith. And this applies to those who are of the faith as well as the faith itself.

Because we are, despite our characteristic faults, "members one of another" we cannot stress just any individuality without damaging the personality that God has given us.

In the end, by your reasoning, we are reduced to that spurious "freedom of the individual" that argues that a man has the right to smoke himself to death if he so wishes. He has no such right, but he has the power of willfulness to do it, which is, you must agree, a wrong.

Your entire editorial is based not on theology, nor even on a misunderstanding of theology, but upon an unreflected political philosophy which is Erastian in its intent to view the Church as a mere collection of separated beings who happen to possess similar views. That, Sir, is not the communion of saints, it is a club.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN CAWTE,
12 Portland Street,
Farnham,
Hampshire,
November 21.

fact he could get skilled staff such as toolmakers but, in spite of using agencies and advertising, could not fill junior clerical posts.

An 18-year-old earning £75 a week pays over 25 per cent by way of income tax and National Insurance contributions. I appreciate these are two quite different deductions, but the employee's first thought is for his or her net "take-home" pay.

If thresholds were increased so that the lower-paid kept 90 per cent of their wages young people would have a greater incentive to take up employment, especially if part of the lost tax revenue was offset by lower rates of unemployment benefit.

The resultant fall in the number of unemployed would make good some of the loss of this revenue and the balance of the shortfall should be funded from higher indirect taxation, especially via petrol duty and VAT.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BRYANT,
Smythford Paddockes,
Country House Hotel and Restaurant,
Six Mile Bottom,
Newmarket, Suffolk.

18), a sigh of relief has echoed around the French countryside that the European championship hosts have been spared a large-scale invasion of what he rightly describes as an army of violent English criminals.

Surely it is not beyond the wit of ourselves and our European neighbours to devise a system whereby visiting supporters are segregated from those of the host country. In addition to fighting on the terraces, the recent brawling in the streets of Luxembourg is a national disgrace, calling for drastic action by both sporting and civil authorities.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED YOUNGS,
39 Stephen Road,
Headington,
Oxford,
November 18.

Even-handed

From Mr Noel Currer-Briggs

Sir, The Police Studies Institute survey (report, November 19): *Britannia semper felix*. What other country's police force would have the courage to commission a report such as this and accept its findings?

Yours faithfully,
NOEL CURRER-BRIGGS,
Le Fauriel,
Bertic-Burle,
24320 Veretillac, France.

Child benefits

From Mr Bryan Jefferson

Sir, It was reported yesterday (November 21) that the family of the Liverpool sextuplets might soon be involved in a deal worth half a million pounds.

Is this likely to achieve a place in the book of records as the finest example of cash on delivery?

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN JEFFERSON,
70 Wimpole Street, W1,
November 22.

JOIN THE PEACE MOVEMENT.

For the last 20 years or more the British Army has been involved in many peace-keeping missions around the world.

At this moment we have troops stationed in places as far flung as the Lebanon, Belize and Cyprus (in addition of course to the Army's well known task at home in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Northern Ireland).

It's a rewarding task, certainly. Peace will always remain an ideal worth striving for.

Yet paradoxically, it is rarely achieved with good intentions and soothing words.

The harsh reality is that the maintenance of peace can often be a bloody affair.

And, as a young Army Officer, it can stretch your abilities almost to breaking point.

In the crossfire.

Six months after leaving Sandhurst, for example, you could find yourself in the middle of someone else's civil war.

In the Lebanon, perhaps.

Here, you could face as many as five or six political and religious factions, at war for very complex reasons.

In the struggle for peace, you may end up feeling you're nobody's friend and everybody's Aunt Sally.

You'll need all the talents of a skilled diplomat.

On occasions, you'll have to make a stand in the thick of the crossfire.

Would you have the courage and dogged determination to see the job through?

Closer to home, you could also spend some time in Northern Ireland.

Some members of the community there are opposed to our presence. A few of them violently so.

Yet there'll be no taking sides.

In the course of your duty, you and your men may be subjected to extremes of provocation.

Could you keep a tight rein on your emotions, even under fire?

Jungle warfare and social work.

In Belize, you could face a different challenge. Your job will be to police the borders.

You'll be confronted by a jungle terrain that will test your powers of physical endurance to the limit.

Moreover, in an area as volatile as Central America, the threat of trouble is never far away.

Quite a challenge 5,000 miles from home.

The British Army also has a force deployed in Cyprus, as part of the UN peace-keeping mission. We play an active role.

As an Officer there, you could find yourself helping the local communities.

You might supervise the distribution of supplies to an isolated village or settle a quarrel about water.

You could mediate in a land dispute between farmers on the edges of the UN Buffer Zone.

How are your talents as an arbitrator?

A spell at Sandhurst.

Needless to say, we won't throw you in at the deep end.

Before you take your first steps as an Army Officer you'll undergo a rigorous training period at Sandhurst.

First of all, we'll put your body through a punishing course in physical fitness.

Then we'll tax your brain.

You'll study social science and international affairs. Gain a grounding in military law and theories of government.

And most important of all, learn the skills of leadership.

From then on, as an officer in the peace movement, it's up to you.

If you would like to know more about a career as an Army officer, please write to:

Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. P4, Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR.

Tell him your date of birth, your school or university and the qualifications you have or expect.



Army Officer

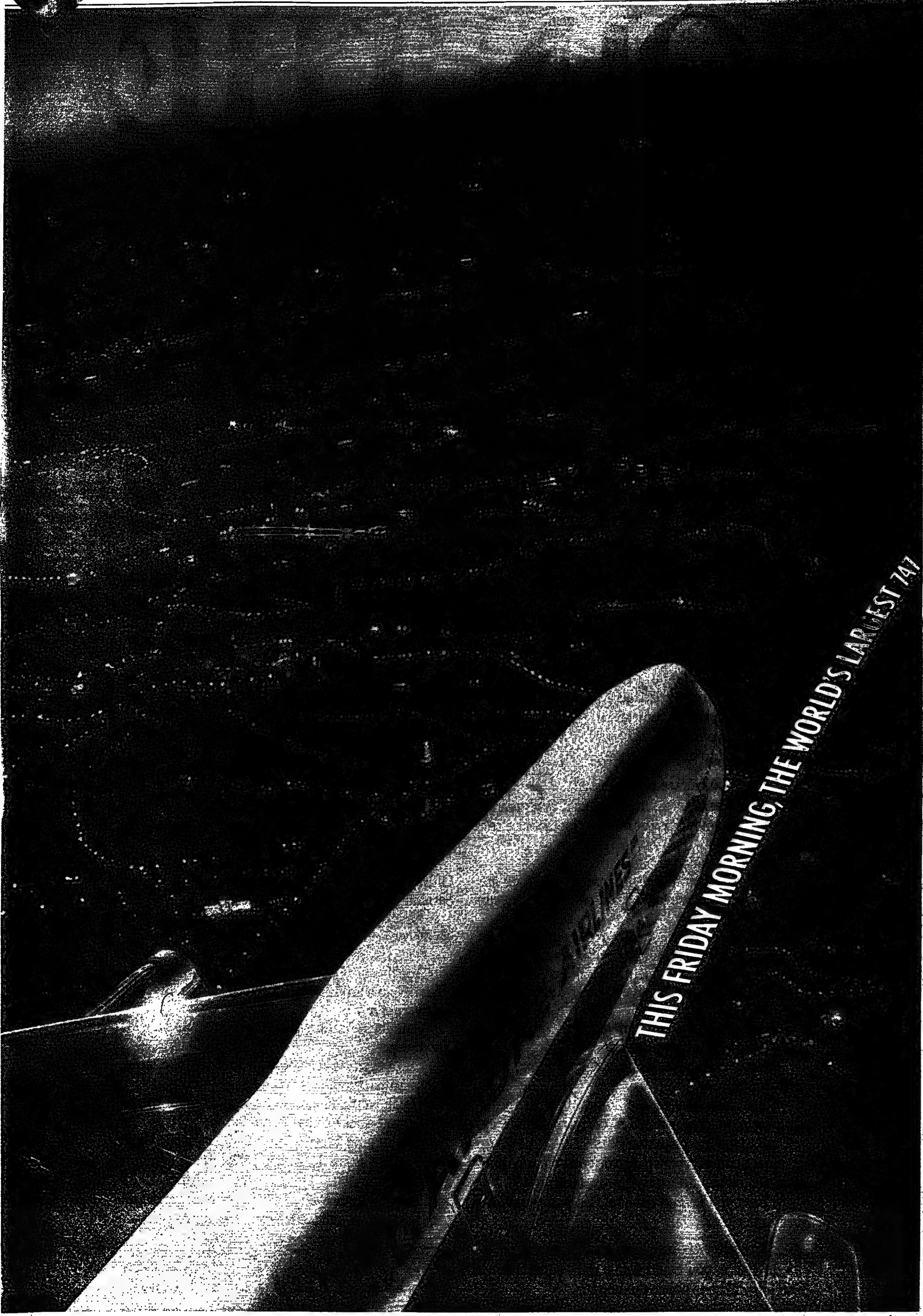
Don't lose any sleep if you miss the plane on Friday. You can always catch it on Saturday. Or on Monday or Tuesday. From November 25, Singapore Airlines will be flying this remarkable aircraft

from Heathrow four times a week as part of their daily service to Singapore. Appropriately, the 747-300, with its stretched upper deck, has been dubbed BIG TOP by SIA. It is an outstanding example of aviation technology.

It has a gross take-off weight of 377,846 kgs. (That's the equivalent of over 45 double decker buses taking off at once.) And it is powered by four Pratt & Whitney engines, each developing 54,750 lbs of thrust. Yet, despite this increased size and power, this

plane is actually quieter than most. However, what is most impressive isn't the exterior, but the interior. SIA has had it laid out so that the upstairs deck is twice as wide as the

been designed
for the 747-300
on the 747-200
to make it more
comfortable as a



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been designed as a single cabin to accommodate the Business Class.

On this private floor, you have your own bar service, movie facilities and galley. The seats are as wide and comfortable as you'd expect and set only two abreast. So

you have the choice of sitting by the window or the aisle.

Downstairs, the First Class cabin is one of the most spacious in the world, with every seat a fully reclining Snoozzer.

Economy Class, too, has its share of extra room,

with more space to stretch out between the specially contoured seats. In fact, because of its unique interior design, BIG TOP has more of just about everything.

More room, more movie areas, more galleys. And more gentle hostesses to give you the kind of in-flight

service that even other airlines talk about.

If you don't catch a glimpse of it in the air, catch it on the ground to Singapore and Australia.

From Heathrow, four days a week, every week.

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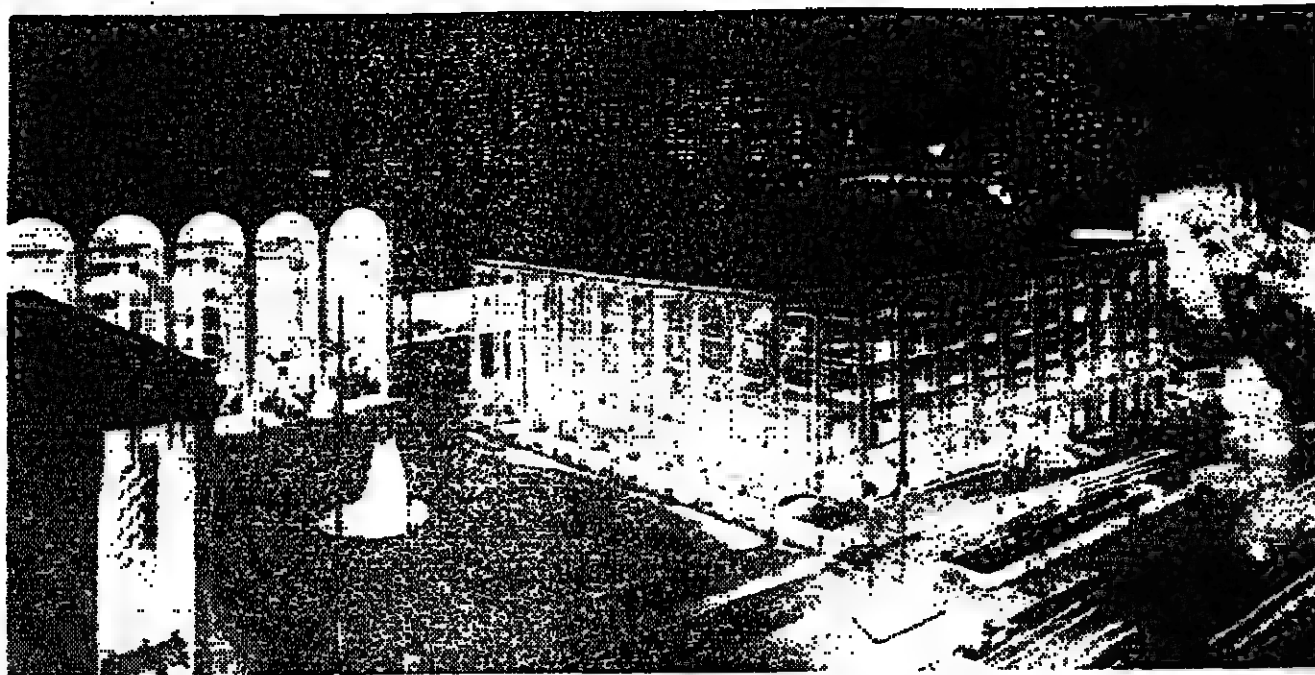
Scheduled flight path and time are dependent on conditions on the day.

THE ARTS

The Vivian Beaumont Theater at New York's Lincoln Center has failed to live up to high hopes, and is now the subject of bitter dispute: Saraleigh Carney reports

Theatre with a stony silence

Lincoln Center Plaza: light but all too little sweetness



In 1965 the New York Concrete Industry Board cited the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center as the best concrete structure erected in New York that year. This was the last unqualified good thing anyone had to say about this building. Now Peter Brook has been tinkering with the acoustics for his current production of *Carmen*.

Dark since June 1981, the beleaguered Beaumont's future is the source of an ugly landlord-tenant dispute. Its projected renovation had become the focal point of dissatisfaction with the leadership of Richmond Crinkley, best known as the commercial producer of the Broadway hit *The Elephant Man*.

The Lincoln Center board has just appointed three of its members to meet representatives of the Beaumont board, but in the meantime resolutions adopted in August remain in effect. The present management was stripped of the right to use Lincoln Center's name and of a share in the proceeds from the Consolidated

Corporate Fund Drive and from the underground parking garage. Last year, the theater received \$489,000 from these sources.

The sanctions are the culmination of Lincoln Center's unhappiness over the lack of progress toward establishing a strong organization devoted to drama. Some, looking for ominous portents, have found one in the drained reflecting pool in front of the theater, which is actually being repaired through a grant from the Henry Moore Foundation.

The Beaumont was created as the eventual home of a theatre company which would equal the achievements of its lofty neighbours — the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, the New York City Opera and Ballet — but it has been a continuing embarrassment. Three managements came and went without pleasing the critics, the public or themselves.

It therefore had a considerable stake in the success of Richmond Crinkley as Executive Director of the

Lincoln Center Theater Company. In December 1978, with much ado, five artists were selected to form the theatre's directorate, an Crinkley, modestly described as administrator and coordinator, announced: "From time to time we will use guest directors, but the spine of the season and the thrust of the artistic policy will be the directorate. We will make decisions collectively."

How well he is running the company is controversial. Crinkley has his supporters on the Beaumont board, and they extended his contract to November 1983 at a meeting in July at which his chairman and president were not present. Subsequently both resigned, which, according to Martin E. Segal, Lincoln Center chairman, made the Centre board "very nervous indeed".

Crinkley insists that, in order for the theatre to work economically and artistically, the main auditorium which attempts to combine a thrust and a proscenium stage needs to be radically altered: "Wonderful theatre

can be done there — but only at enormous cost and with many compromises." Reasonable ticket prices, better acoustics and sight-lines, and reduction of antiquated deficits are promised results of the proposed conversion to a proscenium format.

Lincoln Center charges that the first priority of the management should be the production of plays. Segal says that the emphasis on renovation came after a single season "that was less than stellar, which directed attention away from the theatre's artistic purposes". For two years, the only thing that has been happening at the Beaumont is talk of renovation.

During that time, however, Crinkley has been engaged in two commercial productions, and the appearance of a conflict with running these not-for-profit theatres has been suggested by the press and potential donors.

Crinkley compares his commercial ventures with the outside activities of the National's Peter Hall and the RSC's Trevor Nunn, but without their track record.

Both Segal and Crinkley agree that funds should be expended in a prudent fashion, that they have a public responsibility to do so, and that it is time for the Beaumont to move forward. They disagree, in every case, as to how these goals can be accomplished. Segal sees expenditures for staff and unrealized plans as wasteful; Crinkley maintains that you "can't expect donors to support a white elephant, so we have to change the white elephant".

When the Beaumont first opened, a disgruntled performer compared its backstage corridors to the Titanic and suggested that the most appropriate use for the main auditorium was to fill it with water and put a whale in it. "Obviously, a big power struggle is going on," observes Edward Albee, the playwright-in-residence. "I don't know what the problem is. But I think there is a problem we don't know about." Whichever side finally emerges as Ash and which the Great White Whale, the Beaumont saga is shaping up as a tale of *Moby Dick* proportions.

Hallé/Loughran Festival Hall

When Adrian Boult conducted the City of Birmingham Orchestra in the 1920s, and the London orchestras were in a deputy-ridden mess, he used to say modestly that if he wanted to hear a good concert, he took the train to Manchester. The Hallé was then the best-established orchestra in the land, and the finest.

Still, in terms of freedom of programming and cogency of policy, the main regional orchestras lead their metropolitan counterparts by a long chalk, and if adventure in the contemporary repertoire is more often found at present in Birmingham and Liverpool, than in Manchester, the Hallé's virtues in the mainstream repertoire should be prized.

As they were displayed in Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony on Monday, although they were not as prominent in the messy backdrop to Peter Katin's aimable, fluent Chopin Second Piano Concerto, these virtues

Los Romanos Wigmore Hall

include a solidity of ensemble and rhythmic conviction, excellent cohesion within individual sections, and some outstanding solo playing.

There are some fluffs, rather too many on Monday, but even so the odd broken note cannot remove the poise and beauty of, say, the horn and flute solos in the first movement of the symphony, or the stratospheric first violin line which first announced that serene theme.

James Loughran is a flashy conductor, but within limits: there is nothing hysterical about his Shostakovich, and he is just as concerned to blend and balance his brass section as to let it blast us out of our seats.

On Monday, it was the quieter moments — harp and celesta chiming in perfect unison, strings depositing a breathless major chord at the end of third movement — which stuck in the mind rather than the climaxes. The finale was positively restrained, until the final pounding of drums: the music retained its humanity, which is what Shostakovich needs.

Nicholas Kenyon

London debuts Taste before style

delight. The performance verged on the prim and proper, Beethoven's C minor Trio, Op. 1 No. 3, benefited from a socially-balanced, tidy-minded approach, as did his D major Quartet, Op. 18 No. 3, in the same hall from the English String Quartet, which has grown by the addition of a second violin to the trio led by Diana Cummings.

Their responsive assurance exposed the cheerful prattle of Mendelssohn's F minor Quartet, Op. 44 No. 2, and gave spirited character to Prokofiev's Second Quartet, Op. 92 in F, with its roots in Caucasian folk themes. A potent mixture of melodic warmth and stabbing rhythms reflected a keen understanding of the music's purpose.

Hanna Jasyk, a Polish pianist living in Belgium, has a strong basis of technique to equip her for the larger romantic works she featured in her Wigmore Hall programme. The rich keyboard sonorities she brought to Franck's Prelude, Choral and Fugue were matched by the contrast of turbulent feeling and wayward sentiment in Schumann's Op. 26, the *Fachingschwind und Wien*. Chopin's B flat minor Sonata was distinguished by controlled brilliance and sensitivity.

The more experienced of two violinists was Galina Heifetz, a native of Kiev now based in New York, as is her pianist, Dina Lifshits. In the reverent St James's, Piccadilly, they brought consistent sweetness of tone and style to a genial, large-scale Sonata by Taneyev, which

managed to be both serious minded and diverting in the course of its four movements.

Defiantly varied technique and stylistic panache characterized Efrim Zimbalist's effective arrangement of a Fantasy on St. John's, with splendid variations on a Bach chorale, and to the harmonics leading to obligatory virtuosity. Neither this nor a Sonata by Saint-Saëns went very deep, but they were played with a charm of presentation which Gillian Findlay might have sought to advantage in her Purcell Room programme.

She had strong support from Gordon Back at the piano in Busoni's E minor Sonata, Op. 10 No. 3, with splendid variations on a Bach chorale, and to the harmonics leading to obligatory virtuosity. Neither this nor a Sonata by Saint-Saëns went very deep, but they were played with a charm of presentation which Gillian Findlay might have sought to advantage in her Purcell Room programme.

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Noël Goodwin

It had not occurred to me that London noticeably lacked a medium-sized amateur chorus, but Singers of London, 48 strong, have apparently found such a gap and decided to fill it. As often with English choirs, there were stronger middle voices than at either top or bottom, with a resulting dwindling of tonal weight in Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Haydn's *Salve Regina*. Mozart fared better with his buoyant part-writing in a *Te Deum* and *Litanies Laureanae*, but an instinct for rhythm was not among the choir's marked assets, which inclined to taste rather than style.

Of new instrumental groups the Anglo-Austrian Piano Trio at the Wigmore Hall explored unfamiliar territory in the A minor Trio, Op. 26, by Lalo. The best that can be said for this is that it gave the players a diminishing interest in equal shares, whereas Mozart's B flat Trio (K. 502) is unfair to cellists but entirely constant in its

delight. The performance verged on the prim and proper, Beethoven's C minor Trio, Op. 1 No. 3, benefited from a socially-balanced, tidy-minded approach, as did his D major Quartet, Op. 18 No. 3, in the same hall from the English String Quartet, which has grown by the addition of a second violin to the trio led by Diana Cummings.

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Noël Goodwin

Court of Appeal

Minimising loss to insured property

Integrated Container Service Inc v British Traders Insurance Co Ltd

Lord Justice Eveleigh, Lord Justice Griffiths and Lord Justice Dillon

[Judgment delivered November 17]

An assured person should be entitled to recover under a sue and labour clause of an all risks policy, all extraordinary expenses reasonably incurred by him to avert or minimise a loss to the property insured, where he could demonstrate that a prudent assured person mindful of an obligation to prevent a loss would incur expense of an unusual kind.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing an appeal by the defendants, British Traders Insurance Company Ltd, sued on their own behalf and on behalf of other subscribing underwriters, against a decision on April 22, 1982, of Judge Stubb, QC, one of the official referees of the Supreme Court, who gave judgment for the plaintiffs, Integrated Container Service Inc.

Mr Anthony Colman, QC, and Mr Peter Irvin for the plaintiffs; Mr Ian Hunter, QC, and Mr Bruce Reynolds for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH said in a reserved judgment that in June 1972 the plaintiffs entered into an agreement whereby they leased container and trailer equipment to Oyama Shipping Company Ltd. Oyama's business was in the Far East and they moved cargo to and from Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines where they had depots.

In 1975 Oyama had 1,016 containers on hire, their replacement value being between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each. Oyama as bailees were responsible for their safekeeping and were required to keep them insured.

In July 1975 Oyama were found to be insolvent and ceased trading. The policy they were required to provide had lapsed through non-payment of premiums.

The plaintiffs set in motion a rescue operation and they traced and recovered all but two of their containers, spending \$123,943. The plaintiffs claimed against the defendants \$53,777 by virtue of a sue and labour clause contained in an all risks policy to which the defendants subscribed in the proportion of 41.15 per cent.

At the beginning of the rescue operation some of the containers were in active use while others lay on the quayside and in warehouses. Port dues had been incurred in relation to some and warehouse charges were mounting in relation to others which thus became the subject of a lien for those dues and charges.

The plaintiffs' expenses consisted of payments made in respect of customs and storage charges, the cost of transportation to Oyama

depots and the removal from them to the plaintiffs' depots, the travelling expenses of those engaged in the rescue work and legal fees for advice obtained from Japanese lawyers.

The official referee accepted that the expenditure was necessary incurred to prevent loss or damage to the containers in a situation in which the sue and labour clause applied and gave judgment for the plaintiffs.

Cover was provided by a marine insurance policy entitled "The Institute of London Underwriters' Companies' Combined Policy", which included a sue and labour clause authorizing the plaintiffs "in case of any loss or misfortune... to sue labour and travel for... the defence safeguard and recovery of the... goods and merchandise, or any part thereof without prejudice to this assurance".

The plaintiffs had let their containers on hire to a company that was trading effectively and was in a position to maintain the necessary organization to look after them and perform the duties imposed on them in their capacity as bailees.

When as a result of their insolvency they ceased to operate they were no longer a bailee capable of taking care of the goods. The containers were effectively abandoned by their custodians and were consequently exposed to the risk of theft, misuse, enforcement of a lien — in other words to the risk of loss or damage from some cause or another.

Since the policy covered all risks the plaintiffs had established the

existence of a threat of loss or damage. No matter if that threat resulted from the insolvency of the lessee, they were entitled to recover moneys laid out to avert a loss which might result from a variety of reasons.

The defendants used the judgment of Lord Justice Brett in *Lohre v Atchison* (11878) 3 QBD 558, 566 to support a submission that the fact that the underwriters would have been liable to pay for it.

They contended that the official referee failed to ask whether the loss would very probably have occurred without the currency of the policy so that the underwriters would have been liable to pay for it.

The Marine Insurance Act 1906 provided by section 78(4): "It is the duty of the assured and his agents, in all cases, to take such measures as may be reasonable for the purpose of averting or minimising a loss."

While it was not possible to state with certainty all the adverse consequences which would be suffered by an assured who failed to perform his duty under the sue and labour clause, there was no doubt that he incurred a risk of his claim for loss or damage being rejected in whole or in part if it could be shown that he failed to act when he should have done.

If insurers were to have the right to call upon the assured to take all reasonable measures for the purposes of averting or minimising a loss, it could not be right that insurers

should be able to exact from the assured a higher degree of proof than that he acted reasonably for that purpose. There was nothing in the clause or statute which required the assured to show that a loss would "very probably" have occurred.

To demand such a high degree of proof as contended for by the defendants would place an assured in a dilemma. He would have to make up his mind whether he could satisfy that burden or do nothing and take the risk that insurers would be able to show that he should have acted in defence of the goods.

The words of section 78 of the 1906 Act seemed to impose a duty to act in circumstances where a reasonable man intent upon preserving his property as opposed to claiming upon insurers would act. It should not be possible for insurers to contend that upon an ultimate investigation and analysis of the facts a loss while possible or even probable was not "very probable".

Someone had to be trusted to be reasonable in that situation and the insurers had imposed that responsibility on the assured. From the point of view of insurers, they wished to encourage the assured to act expeditiously in an emergency where there was a risk of their having to meet a claim.

The nature and degree of the risk would determine what measures were reasonable to avert it. Therefore the sue and labour clause entitled the assured to recover the cost of such measures as were reasonably taken for the purpose of averting or minimising a loss when

there was a risk that insurers might have to bear that loss.

It was not open to insurers by searching inquiries and detailed analysis to assert that as a matter of ultimate fact they would never have been liable.

Lord Justice Dillon delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Elborne Mitchell & Co; Walton & Morse.

Factual basis of director's responsibility

Department of Health and Social Security v Evans and Others

Under section 152(4) of the Social Security Act 1975, the question whether any individual director of a company "can be reasonably expected to have known" of that company's failure to pay national insurance contributions was a question of fact which in each case would probably depend on the nature of that director's position and responsibility in regard to the management of the company and the relevant information known to that director. Mr Justice Hirst held in the Queen's Bench Division on November 17.

His Lordship dismissed a claim by the Department of Health and Social Security against three directors of McIntyre (Contractors) Ltd., following the company's conviction under section 146(1) of

the 1975 Act for failing to pay national insurance contributions amounting to £11,511.27.

It was not open to insurers by searching inquiries and detailed analysis to assert that as a matter of ultimate fact they would never have been liable.

Lord Justice Dillon delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Elborne Mitchell & Co; Walton & Morse.

Arbitrator not entitled to exceed brief

Phoenician Express S.A.R.L. v Garware Shipping Corporation Ltd

An arbitrator appointed under an arbitration clause in a charterparty between the shipowners, Garware Shipping Corp Ltd, and the charterers, Phoenician Express S.A.R.L., who made a finding that the charterers had changed their name and were now trading as Phoenician Lines S.A.R.L. had made finding of fact which affected his jurisdiction and accordingly, the form of his award exceeded or might exceed his jurisdiction. Mr Justice Hobhouse held in open court on November 22, after a hearing in the Queen's Bench Division (Commercial Court) in chambers.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the problem arose from the title of the award and the words on the backsheet of the award which read an arbitration between the owners and "Phoenician Express S.A.R.L. of Beirut, now trading as Phoenician Lines S.A.R.L."

The arbitrator only had the jurisdiction given to him by the arbitration agreement, which bound the parties to it and no one else. In so far as the arbitrator made an award against Phoenician Lines S.A.R.L., he was acting without

jurisdiction and the award was without any force. The award would be amended by deleting the relevant words in the title and backsheet.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Perfect match that failed to reach the altar

With so many outside suitors chasing so many attractive Stock Exchange damsels, there are bound to be a few disappointments. Nonetheless, yesterday's terse announcement that talks between Exco International and Wood Mackenzie had been abruptly called off is something of a surprise. The two seemed a perfect business match.



John Gunn: distaste for 'fancy prices'

Exco, although known as a money broker, has already assembled most of the other pieces needed to construct an interlocking financial services jigsaw. First came the Far East dealing business of the old W.I. Carr stockbroking firm. Then Exco bought a 50.1 per cent stake in Garmore Management, a highly respected investment house controlling £1.5 billion of funds. What it needed was a stockbroking firm with a strong business for City institutions and top-rate research backup.

Wood Mackenzie, the broker which made its name in North Sea oil and formed London from Edinburgh, fits that bill perfectly. But a good idea does not make a deal.

The talks had been going on for three months before the two decided it was not going to work. From the buying side, Mr John Gunn, chief executive of Exco International, has already made plain his distaste for the "fancy" prices he had been quoted by other brokers he sounded out before playing his suit with Wood Mackenzie.

Mr John Chiens of Wood Mackenzie had his own problems. Unlike the stockjobbing firm Akroyd & Smithers, a quoted company, or Vickers da Costa, long a limited partnership with non-Stock Exchange interests, Wood Mackenzie is a more conventional 37-man partnership. Any scheme would have to be tax-efficient and allow for the partners' continuing interests.

These things may well prove a stumbling block for other brokers. As it is, neither side seems put off by the unhappy experience and each will probably pursue alternative deals.

Wood Mackenzie, which ranks seventh overall among stock brokers and has a reputation at least to match, can afford to ponder its ambitions. Exco can look at other brokers with comparable reputations and a strong base of institutional share and gilt-edged business such as Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee and James Capel or,

given its already strong connexions, opt to help build up a more humble member of the Stock Exchange fraternity.

Meanwhile, the Stock Exchange still has to find out what a straightforward top-class broker may now be worth. Outsiders paid 12 times earnings for Akroyd, more than 15 (on a three year average) for Vickers da Costa. But there is still plenty of haggling to come.

Old habits die hard at Abbey

As expected, there was no dreamlike beginning yesterday for Abbey National's life as a free agent outside the building society cartel.

Having banked some useful publicity from speculation that the society would go it alone with a preemptive cut in the mortgage rate, the Abbey board prudently decided to leave well alone until at least the next meeting in two weeks.

The latest money supply figures had effectively dashed hopes of an early cut from the present 11.25 per cent, but the continuing unrequited demand for new mortgages - described by the Abbey as stronger than usual at this time of the year - provided another contributory factor.

The episode demonstrates clearly enough that breaking loose from the cartel in practice is going to be much harder than many would have us believe.

Locking up the debts chain

The latest package of new money and rescheduling to keep Brazil as a financially going concern finally seems likely to materialize this week. Quite apart from the facts of the matter, the problem was always going to be that each part of the package depended on another, so that a mammoth amount of talk and coordination has been needed to produce both the chicken and the egg simultaneously.

The most crucial element was agreement by the International Monetary Fund and Brazil on an economic package which would satisfy enough people for the IMF to resume loan payments.

Since Mr Jacques de Larosiere, the IMF's managing director, had made approval more or less a resigning issue, despite Brazil's backsliding on wages, yesterday's crucial IMF meeting in Washington seemed a foregone conclusion.

In Europe, Mr Fritz Leutwiler, of the Bank for International Settlements, joined with a thumbs-up for the total \$11 billion package, which includes \$6.5 billion from commercial banks. The \$2.5 billion of government-backed export credits is assured despite Britain's non-participation.

And the rescheduling talks through the Paris Club have started well enough, though there is still some bargaining over terms to come.

It could all still fall apart. Although more than 300 bankers have committed all but \$500m of their \$6.5 billion new money, half of that is formally conditional on the remaining smaller banks.

Organizers like Morgan Guaranty and Lloyds have still to mount a massive exercise in persuasion over the next three weeks, to meet the December deadline.

Now Brazil must pay the price. Its national income will fall 6 to 7 per cent this year, trade has been balanced almost solely by cutting imports yet inflation is still 200 per cent rather than the promised 150 per cent and more action will be needed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shell and Esso are believed to be looking again at the possibility of developing two North Sea oil fields, Tern and Eider, shelved last year because of falling prices and high taxation.

The recent firming of prices coupled with the Budget oil tax concession have put the two projects - with the combined reserves of 250 million barrels - back in the potentially commercial bracket.

● Metal Box, Britain's leading packaging company, reported interim pretax profits of £34.5m yesterday against £15.9m at the comparable stage last year. The group will benefit from a £40m windfall in the second half of the year when the proceeds from the reorganization of its South African subsidiaries are remitted to Britain. Page 19

● Amersham International has announced a 21 per cent increase in interim pretax profits to £6.4m for the half-year to end September. Turnover rose to £41.3m from £33.7m a year ago and the interim dividend is being raised 15.2 per cent to 1.9p net. The shares fell 2p to 228p, yielding 2.6 per cent. Page 19

● C E Heath, the insurance broker and underwriter, yesterday reported half-time net profits to September of £1.5m at £3.5m. Brokerage income increased 15 per cent, to £14.2m, but with investment income in that sector down 21 per cent, profits fell 6 per cent. Underwriting profits soared 56 per cent to £3.86m. Page 19

● Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Bell Group is raising A\$22m in Australia for extra working capital by placing 4 million shares at A\$5.50. Mr Holmes a Court, who owns Associated Communications Corporation through Bell Group and has built up a big stake in Fleet Holdings, will take up 1 million of the shares.

A T & T new shares lead Dow advance

New York (AP Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks maintained the advances chalked up in early trading yesterday, in a continuation of Monday's rally.

The Dow Jones Industrial average was up about 6.5 points to 1,275. The Transportation average was up about 1.5 points and the Utility index up nearly 1 point.

Trading was again heavy in the shares of the "new" AT & T and the seven units it is spinning off on January 1. Professional traders and arbitrageurs dominated the action.

AT & T "whens issued" was the most active NYSE issue, up 1/4 to 18 1/4.

Polaroid was second, up 1/2 to 18 1/2.

WALL STREET

36% AT & T "old" stock was third, up 1/2 to 64.

American Telephone was up 1/4 at 64 1/2.

International Business Machines off 1/2 at 124; 3/4 Exxon up 3/4 to 37 1/2.

General Electric unchanged at 56 1/2.

Texas Instruments off 1/2 to 13 1/2.

Control Data up 1/2 to 44 1/2.

McDonald Douglas up 1/4 to 55 1/2.

Dupont was 53 1/2, up 1/4.

Minnesota Mining 88 off 1/4.

International Paper 57 1/2, up 1/4.

Mead 40, unchanged.

St Regis 35 1/2, up 1/4.

Great Northern 55 1/2, up 1/4.

Northern 55 1/2, up 1/4.

General Motors 77 1/2, unchanged.

Ralph Halpern: bonus 'will be relatively modest'

Chambers of Commerce join call for change

Fight to redraw the map for regional aid

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce is the latest organization to join the discussion on regional policy and to suggest ways in which the Government can more effectively channel state aid into the sectors of the economy that are most in need and likely to derive the greatest benefit.

The 86 chambers in the association comprise mostly small and medium sized businesses whose owners and managers are in an ideal position to observe the impact of regional aid.

The association's case, *Fair Deal for the Regions*, is published today just a few weeks before the Government makes public its proposals for a radical rethink of regional

policy. That new policy will be enshrined in a White Paper which, by all accounts, will have given margins to allow for a further vital period of consultation.

It seems clear that any policy that properly and fairly assists the more disadvantaged areas will need to take into account and be affected by other elements of national industrial policy.

In particular, the regions - and their unemployment rates - would be affected considerably by more capital spending on infrastructure projects.

The association's list of beneficial measures include "greater incentives to geographical mobility, a curb on non-dom-

estic rate increases, more vigorous action against unfair foreign competition and unreasonable barriers to British exports, and, most important, more investment in transport systems."

One of the examples quoted is the expansion of Manchester Airport which says the association, if accompanied by a first-class permanent link to British Rail's main lines to the North and South, would benefit the North of England generally.

Infrastructure investment should be geared to regional need, the association says. Such spending in those regions with relatively high unemployment and in the older industrial areas is a significantly more effective way of stimulating

economic activity and meeting social need.

But, it says, the investment must come through capital grants and should not be "frittered away" in subsidies to current spending.

The £700m a year saved from the regional development grant scheme, which the association wants abolished, should not be the source of these funds, however.

"Once the saving was made there would be no guarantee that either the Treasury or local authorities (which are now underspending on capital spending) would make it available or spend what was allocated."

Two exceptions are identified: fulfilling demand for

derelict land grants in the older industrial areas, and expanded urban development grants to eradicate inner city blightspots.

The association wants the former regional development grant money to go into the coffers of the Industrial Development Act and, specifically, to extend the provisions of Section 7 to cover the entire country.

"This would be a more selective grant regime, and favouring investment in those industries throughout the country with a reasonable chance of a viable future."

The association calls for a period of consultation after the publication of the White Paper and before the country is presented irrevocably with a redrawn industrial map.

Tebbit says SE Council will have five non-members

By Philip Robinson

The Government moved yesterday to exempt the Stock Exchange from action under the Restrictive Practices Act and to end a four-year battle over its rule book.

Presenting the exemption Bill Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that five non-members would be sitting on the Stock Exchange ruling council before the end of next month and that within two days the Exchange will unveil details allowing non-members to become directors of firms in which they have a stake.

The Government move effectively allows the Exchange to reform itself under the guidance of the Bank of England rather than have changes forced on it by the Restrictive Practices Court.

The Government intervened during the summer after four successive trade secretaries had refused to grant any exemption to the Stock Exchange.

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, called the intervention a scandal.



Norman Tebbit: no sell-out

capacity could not long survive this change.

In July, commissions were to be abolished over two-and-a-half years. But it is now likely that these would go on a set date once the groundwork was done.

"What is referred to as the big bang approach," he said.

With the abolition of commissions, there have been fears that the entire Stock Exchange system of single capacity would need to change. Mr Tebbit said:

"If the users decide that single capacity must go it will not be for me to stand in the way, but I would want adequate safeguards for investors before any change was made."

"I think the Stock Exchange could design such safeguards if it wanted single capacity to go."

Turning to critics who view the change as a sell-out to foreigners, Mr Tebbit said that a number of British institutions have also been making overtures to Stock Exchange firms.

As part of the reforms, a quarter of the ruling council - which now stands at 46 members - will be made up of non-Exchange members. Five of these will be appointed before the New Year. The Exchange will also establish an appeal body made up entirely of outsiders who will listen to those whose membership has been rejected, with powers to overrule the council's decision.

Non-members will also sit on the Exchange's disciplinary appeal body. The non-members are also to be allowed to become directors of member firms where their own companies own a substantial stake.

Burton goes into fast food field

By Jonathan Clare

The Burton Group is to branch into the fast food business by opening an experimental restaurant, above a combined Top Man and Top Shop store due to open soon in Liverpool.

Burton bought the 60,000 sq ft store on a prime site, from F W Woolworth which is rationalizing its property portfolio under its new management.

Mr Paul Plant, Burton's retail director, said yesterday he believed the 15 to 25 age group which shopped at Top Man and Top Shop also used restaurants like McDonalds.

Full year profits from the company which includes Burton, Jackson, Top Man, Dorothy Perkins, Top Shop, Evans and Peter Robinson, show the expected jump in profits from £24.3m to £39.1m.

The increase is reflected in a big increase in incentive payments under a bonus scheme which increased from £2.5m to £4.8m paid to 8,700 executives and employees - 87 per cent of the workforce.

The directors will share in the bonus, which is less than 10 per cent of the total wage roll, but denied speculation that Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, would receive £250,000.

Mr Mike Wood, the finance director, said Mr Halpern's share "will be relatively modest."

Mr Halpern added it would appear in the annual report.

Mr Wood also said the company was not worried by its failure to buy Richard Shops and John Collier to help it expand. He said that Richard Shops have a total floor space of 500,000 sq ft and it has already added a further 140,000 sq ft in last year.

It has already added a further 140,000 sq ft this financial year. It claims it will be the most aggressive buyer of shop property in the country this year.

Last year the group increased its overall market share by about 0.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent. It holds about 3 per cent of the womenswear market and 5 per cent of menswear.

Net margins have improved from 6 per cent in 1980 to 12.6 per cent last year. Cash in the bank has risen from £11m to £18m and Burton can draw on substantial overdraft facilities if it needs to make a big acquisition.

Gibbs bank reborn under new name

By Michael Prest

A new merchant banking force will be launched in London next month when Antony Gibbs, the small house owned by the Hongkong Bank Group, starts afresh with £22m of new capital, a new name, and new offices.

From December 12 the present holding company, Antony Gibbs Holdings, will be called Wardley London Holdings, while the subsidiary Antony Gibbs & Sons will become Wardley London Ltd.

Wardley is the name of the Hongkong group's main merchant bank. Most of the Antony Gibbs subsidiaries will undergo a similar name change.

The capital injection will bring shareholders' funds to £40m, which the chairman, Mr Tom Welsh, believes will be sufficient to support, for some years, a concerted move to increase the volume of conventional merchant banking business.

On the day that the changes of name became effective the bank will start trading from 71,000 square feet of the new Cutlers Gardens complex at 7, Devonshire Square in the City. Mr Welsh regards the move from the former premises off Old Jewry, also in the City, as an integral part of the bank's revitalization.

Antony Gibbs's senior executives, including the acting chief executive, Mr Rowan Lauder, from Wardley Hongkong, frankly admit that the reputation of the house needs improvement.

But the potential of a merchant bank in London, very much at the heart of the changes sweeping through the financial world, could not be exploited until the parent digest Mariner Midland Bank, seen its bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and sorted out its own problems in Hongkong.

The new Wardley London, however, is designed to take advantage of the changes its executives see emerging over the next few years. While the core of the operation will be the traditional role of merchant banks, Wardley will offer the full range of services in money transactions, capital markets, and export finance.

Mr Ric Smith, the merchant bank's managing director, sees corporate finance as being the catalyst for the other activities.

Antony Gibbs regards its connexions through the other parts of the Hongkong Bank Group with the Far and Middle East and Africa as a valuable source of business. It hopes to be able to attract customers such as central banks.

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Fed blamed as growth slows in US

From Bailey Morris

The American economy slowed during the third quarter, according to revised figures released yesterday by the Reagan Administration, fueling fears of some high-level officials that the central bank's monetary policy is too tight.

A Commerce Department spokesman said real gross national product grew at a revised rate of 7.7 per cent in the third quarter, down from an earlier "flash estimate" of 7.9 per cent.

The revised third quarter figures compared with growth in the April-June quarter of 9.7 per cent. Corporate profits, while still strong, also slowed in the third quarter with a gain of 11.6 per cent, down from after-tax profit growth of 17.6 per cent in the second quarter of the year.

The latest figures drew a sharp response from White House and Congressional officials who have complained in recent weeks that the policies of the US Federal Reserve Board, America's central bank, are endangering a sustained recovery.

High-level officials, including Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary and Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, have publicly warned Mr Paul Volcker, the central bank chairman, not to allow money supply growth to slow significantly.

But Mr Volcker made clear yesterday his belief that the Federal Reserve Board is following the right course in continuing to hold down inflation while allowing a moderate recovery.

His remarks underscored the growing policy debate in Washington over whether the huge US deficit or the central bank's restrictive policies are the cause of continuing high US interest rates.

Mr Jack Kemp, a conservative Congressman from New York, recently joined 49 of his colleagues in signing a letter to Mr Volcker warning that the recovery could fizzle out before the presidential elections if monetary policy were not eased.

"Monetary policy is deliberately being kept unnecessarily tight and the economic expansion held hostage to at tax increase," the congressmen claimed in their letter.

P&O shares for Sterling

It looks as though Mr Jeffrey Sterling, the newly appointed chairman of Peninsula & Oriental, has taken advantage of this week's weakness in the share price.

Word in the market yesterday suggested he had bought a further 1million to 1.5million shares in P&O through his own brokers and now owns about 4 per cent in the company. This latest buying spree was greeted with a firm "no comment".

But the stake, worth \$3.72m, may prove crucial if Trafalgar House decides to pursue its original £250m bid once the Monopolies Commission gives the go-ahead.

The rest of the equity market enjoyed a prosperous day, although turnover remained at a low ebb. The FT Index closed at its high for the day 5.3 up at 724.0, helped by the overnight surge on Wall Street.

In the gilt market the issue of a new £500m of "tap" stock has made little impact.

Market report, page 18

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 725.7 up 6.9
FT 1000 83.46 up 0.21
FT All Shares 453.36 up 1.41
Barratman 20.01 up 0.01
Datastream USM Leaders Index 94.75 down 0.2
New York: Dow Jones Average 1,275
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,416.56
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 835.97 down 1.21
Amsterdam 150.5 up 1.9
Sydney: AO Index 717.2 down 0.9
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1003.3 up 3.8
Brussels: General Index 128.73 up 0.45
Paris: CAC Index 145.5 up 0.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4735 up 75pts
Index 83.5 down 0.1
DM 3.9850 up 0.0050
FF 12.0750 up 0.0370
Yen 348.00 up 1.25
Dollar Index 128.4 down 0.4
DM 2.8855

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4735
Dollar DM 2.6895
ECU £0.570223
SDR £0.714373

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week fixed 9/8
3 month Interbank 9/8-9/4

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9/16-9/16
3 month DM 6/16-6/16
3 month Fr F13/16-13/16

US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9
Treasury long bond 102 1/4-102 1/8

ECG Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period October 5 to November 1, 1983 inclusive: 9.933 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$375.80 pm \$376.50
close \$376.50 (\$256.00)
New York latest: \$377.25
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$387.388-50 (\$263.25-264.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$88-89 (\$59.75-60.50)
*Excludes VAT

J Hepworth & Son plc

A RECORD YEAR

GROUP RESULTS

Years to 31st August (amount in thousands)	1983	1982
Group turnover (excl. VAT)	98,603	83,370
Profit before tax	8,861	3,860
Profit after tax	6,426	3,977
Extraordinary items (net)	808	1,529
Profit after tax and extraordinary items (net)	7,234	5,506
Earnings per ordinary 10p share (excluding extraordinary items)	14.47p	8.96p

- Profit before tax increased by 121% - a Group record.
- A year of considerable change has seen the phenomenal growth of Next, the Group's womenswear chain, and a substantial refurbishment of Hepworths menswear shops.
- Dividend is increased by 37 1/4%.
- Revaluation of property portfolio showed a surplus of £8m.
- Borrowings have been paid off.
- Club 24 continues to flourish and has improved its contribution to profits.
- Assets per share have now risen to 282p.
- There is every reason to be encouraged by the prospects ahead.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Trust buys into broker

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Nov 14. Dealings and, Nov 25. Contango Day, Nov 28. Settlement Day, Dec 5.

of trends in the run-up to Christmas. The Chancellor's words of encouragement to the economy have meant little to the hardened campaigners. Attention remained focused on

at the longer end of the market. Dealers hope that the new short "tap" announced on Monday will be oversubscribed, but this appears doubtful in some quarters.

Among the leaders Glaxo added 13p to 730p on yesterday's reports in *The Times* of a meeting at Broker Buckmaster & Moore and a possible bullish brokers circular within the next fortnight.

The United Kingdom's biggest cement producer Blue Circle also rose 10p to 428p on hopes of an imminent price rise. Blue Circle's big US competitor Lone Star has been over in London and is looking for an increase in raw materials of 15 per cent. Hopes of a fall in unemployment has given a boost to the employment agencies. Yesterday it was the turn of Brook St Bureau 8p higher at 43p.

Over on the Unlisted Securities Market Securguard added 1p to 126p after announcing its £1.2m acquisition of a private security company with offices stretching from Birmingham to Glasgow. Mr Alan Baldwin, chairman, is pleased with the

purchase and says it would have cost the group £1m to set up a similar operation of its own back. Securguard joined the USM earlier this year following a placing of shares by broker Phillips & Drew at about 134p.

Shares of Finlay Packaging continued to hover just below

Licensed dealers Harvard Securities has made its first venture into the Unlisted Securities Market with the placing of 4.2 million shares in Brewmak, the D-T beer and wine group, at 33.25p a share.

Forecasting pretax profits of £600,000 for the year the group is looking for an opening price of about 40p in first time dealings.

specialist situations and bids with the FT Index closing at its high for the day 6.9 up at 725.7 helped by the renewed strength on Wall Street.

The abolition of roll-up funds continued to boost gilts which ended the day 75p higher

the year's high of 38p on hopes of a bumper set of figures this year. At the interim stage the group reported pretax profits up from £272,000 to £609,000 with the market looking for more than film for the year. The group, already sitting on about £300,000 in cash, is looked upon by some dealers as a possible takeover candidate since Ferguson Industrial Holdings sold its 22.7 per cent stake in August.

Francis Industries added a further 2p to 67p reflecting Mr David Abell's Suter Electrical increasing its stake to 23.39 per cent of the total. This has led to the inevitable suggestion that Suter may eventually make a full bid.

Francis says it has received no approach from Suter which ended the day 1p dearer at 76p.

In stores jobbers were caught short in Woolworth 23p higher at 305p. Dealers are now looking for a bumper Christmas which could see pretax profits as high as £20.5m (excluding property profits) against £4.3m last time.

John Brown held steady at 13p after wild fluctuations earlier in the week.

RECENT ISSUES		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Acorn Computer (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

BRITISH FUNDS		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

LOCAL AUTHORITIES		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
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Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
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Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

A - B		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
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Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

C - D		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
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Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

E - F		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
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Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

G - H		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

I - J		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

K - L		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

M - N		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		
Alcatel (10 Oct 1983)	120		

O - P		Closing	
Company	Price	Yield	Div
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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK • edited by Michael Prest

Productivity pays off at Metal Box

Efficiency is the order of the day at Metal Box, Britain's leading packaging group. Yesterday's interim figures showed a dramatic increase in pretax profits from £15.9m to £34.5m, compared with the same stage last year, with almost all the improvement credited to increases in productivity, particularly in Britain.

The group has coped well with a combination of technological change and world recession which threatened its existence as the dominant supplier of cans and packaging to the British food and drink industries. More than 12,000 jobs have disappeared leaving Metal Box with 22,000 employees in Britain. The group has been investing between £50m and £60m a year in new plant and equipment, with half of this in Britain.

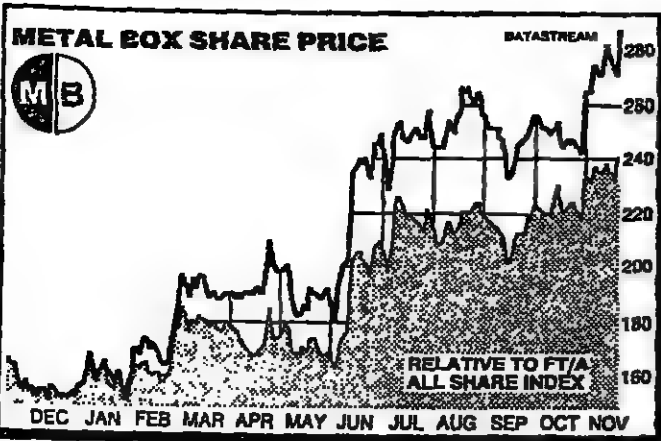
The result is that the group is making as many cans as it did in 1979 with half the employees. Factories supplying the drinks industry are working flat out, and there is little slack on the food side.

Efforts to contain costs include asking shareholders to vote next year on the appointment of a new firm of auditors to take £1m a year of business now handled by six firms.

The PET (plastic bottle) market is growing at the rate of 15 per cent a year as breweries and soft drinks suppliers take advantage of this cheaper means of packaging. Metal Box claims to be leader in this field.

Elsewhere, Metal Box clings to its 40 per cent share of a static central heating market, through Stielard. Overseas operations still account for more than half the group's interim sales of £710m (£659m last time). A change in the year end of the American operation from December 31, to March 31, means a nine-month contribution, but this is net loss of £500,000 once interest charges are taken into account.

The unanswered question for the second half of the year is how much of a £40m windfall



resulting from the restructuring of the group's interests in South Africa will show through in the profit and loss account. The board promised that gross debt would fall from 52 per cent to 30 per cent of shareholders' funds after the deal, which will reduce interest charges, but there could be further substantial provisions for redundancy and rationalization.

Still, the market was happy with the figures, chalking up the share by 8p to 288p against a 140p low for the year.

Amersham

A 21.4 per cent increase in profits and forecasts that the growth rate will continue has not helped to support the Amersham share price. Worse, there is a view that the stock should be sold.

Currently, the present price of 238p is only pennies above the year's low - still double last year's issue price admittedly - and the underlying worry in the market is how well the company can sustain that growth in the face of the competition from the biotechnological alternatives being developed in radioactive medical diagnostics.

Nevertheless there is no danger in the next couple of years, at least according to the company, which is confident of sustaining the growth.

But Amersham is raising double last year's borrowings. £10m expected this year and further growth next year, to centralize the administration after two years of booming expansion.

It has directed 50 per cent of its research and development expenditure, at present 8 per cent of total annual expenditure, into non-radioactive diagnostics and is buying in the necessary expertise.

But whether that will be enough to compete effectively with the new biotechnological companies remains to be seen.

The company is also benefiting from the weak pound. The 20 per cent profits improvement included 5 points from the exchange rate.

Amersham considers that the next product range will still be within radioactive diagnostics. It has a deal with an American university for a chemical which increases the range of uses of a scanner.

After that there will be a new range of products unrelated to radioisotopes. Despite that, the feeling persists that the shares will be a gamble for at least two years or until Amersham has shown just how well it can stand up to the burgeoning competition.

C E Heath

Nobody could have been more cautious about its industry's prospects than the insurance firm, C E Heath, when it came to its interim dividend of 5p to 5.25p net after seeing six months' net profits rise 17 per cent.

But to talk of broking being the problem sector, while underwriting profits have soared by 36 per cent, is to ignore the huge difficulty facing the insurance industry as a whole: Massive rate-cutting, which has been particularly savage in the US.

Many companies there have been operating on the old-style Japanese principle of accumulating turnover, not profits - but, in their case, not for growth to survive.

Heath's spectacular rise in its Australian business, as predicted, only serves to underline the problems in North America, which still represents the biggest single slice of its turnover and profits. The increase in rates that was widely predicted for this year appeared briefly, but has not been sustained. Analysis now suggests that it will not even materialize next year.

Heath acknowledges losing a contract because American competitors cut rates by half. Business, which it and another London firm had done in the oil sector at \$30m last year, was placed at between \$14m and \$15m this year.

It has also not been asked to quote for certain businesses again, which it lost last year by substantially cutting rates. But, like a growing number of non-US firms, it firmly believes that, if you cut your own throat too far, you eventually lose your head.

The shake-out amongst competitors is already happening in the ranks of the so-called "captive" insurance companies set up by industrial concerns, against largely American, to serve their in-house needs, of which more than 1,000 are registered in Bermuda - and among companies in the Third World.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Adams Leisure
Year to 31.8.83
Pretax profit £3m (£1m)
Stated earnings 7.8p (2.9p)
Turnover £20.7m (£13.6m)
Net final dividend 1p

Dygal Dynamics
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £181,000 (£34,000)
Stated earnings 3.7p (0.9p)
Turnover £2.2m (£1.4m)

A & M Hine
Half-year to 31.7.83
Pretax profit £260,000 (£255,000)
Stated earnings 0.38p (0.49p)
Turnover £242,000 (£228,000)
Net dividend 0.1p

Sekers International
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £171,000 (loss £54,000)
Stated earnings 1.84m (£5.5m)
Net interim dividend 0.25p (nil)

Amos Hinton & Sons
Half-year to 17.9.83
Pretax profit £1.1m (£258,000)
Stated earnings 10.6p (5.35p)
Turnover £85.2m (£58.1m)
Net interim dividend 2.4p (same)

Parkland Textile (Holdings)
Half-year to 29.8.83
Pretax profit £807,000
Stated earnings 10.6p (2.4p)
Turnover £20.4m (£18.4m)
Net interim dividend 1.6p (same)

Raxmore
Half-year to 1.10.83
Pretax profit £285,000 (£190,000)
Stated earnings 2.11p (1.75p)
Turnover £20.5m (£18.8m)
Net interim dividend 0.6p (0.525p)

Pactrol Electronics
Half-year to 30.9.83
Pretax profit £228,000 (£144,000)
Stated earnings 8.09p (5.25p)
Turnover £1.1m (£726,000)
Net interim dividend 2p (1.5p)
Share price 438p Yield 1.8
Dividend payable 12.12.83

The Haywood Williams Group is raising £2m by a one-for-four rights issue. The 2,147,773 new shares at 100p will be in line for the proposed final dividend of 3p this year. The Group which manufactures house building materials will use the funds to reduce borrowings, which stood at £2.95m at the end of last year. Pre-tax profits for the year to December are expected to be more than £2m - up from £847,000 last year.

Economic Commentary by Tim Congdon

The VAT 'mistake' that might help revive the economy

Mr Nigel Lawson has suffered from several media nasties in the last week, with *The Sun* "Lawson in Blunderland" being perhaps the least wholesome. His autumn statement has clearly lost him so many friends in the popular press that he must be well on the way to becoming a very good Chancellor of the Exchequer.

But so far he has been responsible only for some measures to control public spending, announced in July, and last week's statement. The most encouraging sign would be if the newspapers gave Mr Lawson an even heavier battering after his first Budget, due in March or April. We could then be certain that he would complete his job enjoying universal respect and admiration.

The purpose of this article is to propose a change in the structure of taxation so major and controversial that it would give the headline writers a field day.

There would be a much more serious intention, of course. It would be to strengthen incentives where it really counts (the low-paid, the unemployed) and to improve the efficiency of both the labour and capital markets.

The essential step is to repeat the so-called "mistake" in Sir Geoffrey Howe's first Budget, announcing a substantial rise in the rate of value-added tax, on this occasion from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

The revenue from higher VAT would become available for more worthy causes.

It would probably not be a good idea to put the rate up

The Arithmetic of the Tax Package (figures in £m 1984-85 prices)

	First year	Full year
Addition to revenue from raising VAT from 15 per cent to 20 per cent	+550	+740
Loss of revenue from abolishing NIS	+2,750	+3,700
Loss of revenue from changing single and wife's earned income allowance by £20	-1,125	-1,275
Official estimate of yield from stamp duties in 1983-84	-63	-76
Probable yield from stamp duties in 1984-85	-1,100	-1,330
The package:		
Full-year yield from raising VAT to 20 per cent		+3,700
Full-year cost of ending NIS		-1,275
Full-year cost of increasing single and wife's earned income allowance by £20		-1,330
Full-year cost of abolishing stamp duties		-1,100
Full-year effect on the PSBR		-5

Sources: HM Treasury Autumn Statement, 1983, Financial Statement and Budget Report 1983-84, and own estimates.

The limit, now £32.50 a week, is due to rise to £34.00 next April. Few workers earn as little as this, but the need to pay contributions is an obvious deterrent to employers when considering recruitment and discouragement to the unemployed when seeking work.

The groups most affected are school-leavers and young workers who usually enter employment at minimum wage rates. There unemployment rate is particularly high and the raising of the lower earnings limit would make a worthwhile difference to their problem.

The drawback to tinkering with the lower earnings limit is that it would muddy the distinction between the tax and national insurance systems.

If the limit was increased, it would become more difficult for the very low-paid, including the young, to build up a contributions record. Without a contributions record, entitlement to benefit cannot be established.

The answer may be a special Treasury supplement to exempt young workers from national insurance contributions while they are gaining on-the-job experience.

The Government may be suspicious of this idea since it would disturb the insurance principle on which social security is based. But, if we have had a national insurance surcharge, what is so objectionable about a national insurance supplement?

Ending the national insurance surcharge takes up

VAT actually falls less heavily on the poor

£1,275m. of the £3,700m. available. Nearly half of the remaining £2,425m. should be used for the abolition of stamp duty.

The case for ending stamp duty has become urgent in the last few months.

The shares of British registered companies are being actively traded on foreign stock exchanges in forms which avoid stamp duty. No revenue is raised and the London capital markets are bypassed. If the Government wants the stock exchange to be internationally competitive when the new rule book comes into force, stamp duty must go.

Stamp duty is expected to yield revenue of a little under

£1,000m. in 1983-84. The figure in 1984-85 might be £1,100m. That would leave another £1,325m. before the additional proceeds from 20 per cent VAT had been exhausted.

It could be devoted to a further upward adjustment of personal allowances. The Treasury's ready-reckoner says that the full-year cost of raising the single and wife's earned income allowance by £20 would be £76m. The allowance, therefore, could be increased by almost £350.

This move would mitigate the unemployment and poverty traps, but the point should

Drawbacks in tinkering with the lower earning limit

not be overstated. Now that unemployment benefit is subject to tax, the net loss of state handouts for someone resuming work is smaller than used to be the case.

An equally important merit of raising personal allowances would be political. Even Mr. Lawson would balk at the rumour likely to be caused by simultaneously increasing VAT and abolishing stamp duty, both of which would be regarded as bonuses for the rich.

(In fact, VAT falls least heavily on the poor because it does not apply to food and housing, but that is not the common perception.)

If, however, personal allowances were raised in conjunction with the abolition of stamp duty it is difficult to see why anyone should object. The low paid would gain most, in proportion to their incomes, from higher personal allowance than the well off.

In fact, the overall effect of all the changes proposed in this article would be to favour the poor, not the rich. People on low incomes and in employment would gain most. The arguments for a big switch in the fiscal structure, with higher indirect taxes financing a cut in direct taxation on the low paid, are simple, logical and persuasive. Indeed, they are so simple, logical and persuasive that they are very probably beyond the comprehension of the headline writers in the tabloid press.

The final reason for implementing the changes is, therefore, that they will make Mr Lawson extremely unpopular - which is just what a Chancellor of the Exchequer should be after his first Budget.

Atlantic Computers in £14m takeover

By Jeremy Warner

Atlantic Computers, the fast growing computer systems design group, is spending £14m on a manufacturing company that will take it into the field of data communications.

The acquisition comes less than two months after Atlantic was floated on the stock market with a price tag of about £55m.

Now it is paying a mixture of shares, cash and loan stock for Lion Systems Developments, a privately-owned Buckinghamshire company which designs and makes specialist data communications systems.

Atlantic shares, which were offered for sale at 23p in early October, rose a further 27p on the stock market yesterday to 410p.

Atlantic said it expected significant benefits for both companies as a result of the merger. The chairman, Mr John Foulston, said: "No other company could open the door to data communications in the same way that Lion does."

Lion's data communications and telecommunications management systems as complementary to its own activity in supplying computer systems.

Lion has said that it will make pretax profits of not less than £1.65m in the 10 months to the end of this year. Sales in that period will be about £5.2m. Atlantic has forecast profits of not less than £5.1m for 1983.

Spanish drive for UK tourists

From Harry Debelius Madrid

The Spanish government is to spend £1m to encourage more British holidaymakers to look for "everything under the sun" in Spain, a spokesman for the tourist department said in Madrid yesterday.

The total budget for official tourist promotion abroad, 1.9 billion pesetas (8.5m) is 38 per cent higher than the amount spent the previous year.

Newlands, Knight & Round will handle the advertising and promotion in Britain during the first part of the two-part campaign. For that first phase, which begins immediately, Spain has allocated 120m. No agency has yet been named for the second phase, budgeted at 108m pesetas.

An additional 300m pesetas will be spent on international advertising, including some British publications, the tourist official said. Tandem/DDS of Madrid was awarded that contract. The slogan for the advertisements is: "Everything under the sun", emphasizing the variety of activities available in Spain.

The campaign has been structured on the results of a survey by the tourist department, which indicated the holiday activities of the various categories of holidaymakers.

Officials said that the campaign is aimed at the higher end of the market.

Food canning prices to increase by 6%

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Cans for foods, including petfoods, are to rise in price by an average 6 per cent in January adding £20m to food canners' costs. Cans for soft drinks and beer are also expected to go up.

Profit margins in food canning are still tight, so the extra costs will be passed on in full, said the Food Manufacturers Federation which described the price increases from Metal Box and American Can the dominant suppliers, as "disappointing".

On the case of 24 15½ oz cans the price increase will add another 10p across a broad range of fruit and vegetable products, according to the federation. In the shop it might mean another ½p on medium sized cans of beans.

The increases have been notified by the can makers after a 6.4 per cent increase in

tinplate prices by British Steel. Both steel and aluminium cans are affected because is now split fairly evenly between steel and aluminium cans.

Food manufacturers are not happy at the price increases because they argue that tinplate increases need not be fully mirrored in finished can prices. Tinplate costs account for 60 per cent of the total cost of producing a can, the federation says.

Canners have seen a 4.9 per cent decline in canned food sales last year. But petfoods, which represent about a third of the total canned goods market, were up 3.3 per cent. Net profit margins in food and drink have improved to 3.5 per cent overall, but margins in the canned food sector are lower, according to the federation.

Midland Bank promotion

APPOINTMENTS

Midland Bank: Mr Robert Wyatt, assistant general manager and an executive director of Midland Bank Group International Trade Services (MBGITS), becomes general manager of the bank on January 1.

He will succeed Mr George Barrett who is retiring. Mr Barrett will continue as chairman of MBGITS.

Securities Trust of Scotland: Mr Ronald Miller has been elected director.

Schroder Asselsy: Mr Colin Craig will become managing director in early January.

Consolidated: Miss Alison Cathie, at present publishing director of Orbis Publishing, will be managing director/publisher from January 31.

Airways Pension Scheme: Mr

J Charles Woodward becomes chief executive on January 1. Centre for Economic Policy Research: Mrs Wendy Thompson is to be administrative director (programme and finance).

Reldan: Mr Robert Russell, has been elected managing director of the retail division and will join the Reldan main board.

Anthony Launders & Co: Mr F Pearce is a new director. Group Investors: Mr P W Darwin is the new chairman.

Arthur Lee Group: Mr G S Firth take over as managing director of Lee Steel Wire.

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Coffee, Arabica	105.5-106.5	£110-£120	£120-£130	£130-£140	£140-£150	£150-£160	£160-£170
Gold, 100g	194.0-195.0	£170-£180	£180-£190	£190-£200	£200-£210	£210-£220	£220-£230
Oil, 100g	19.5-20.5	£230-£240	£240-£250	£250-£260	£260-£270	£270-£280	£280-£290
Wheat, 100g	1.1-1.2	£290-£300	£300-£310	£310-£320	£320-£330	£330-£340	£340-£350
Barley, 100g	1.2-1.3	£350-£360	£360-£370	£370-£380	£380-£390	£390-£400	£400-£410
Beet, 100g	1.4-1.5	£410-£420	£420-£430	£430-£440	£440-£450	£450-£460	£460-£470
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TENNIS

Russians come out of the cold with a revolutionary sledge

[illegible]

SQUASH RACKETS

Jahan deserves credit for a wise decision

By Rex Bellamy

The best player eligible for the men's event has not entered for the British national championships, to be played at Sheffield from December 9 to 15. Instead, Hidayat Jahan, who ranks third in the world, may compete at Cologne in the West German Open championships, which will take place at the same time. The Sheffield title should therefore go to one of the men who have contested the last two finals - Brian Briers, last year's winner, and Philip Kenyon, the 1981 champion.

Jahan, a Pathan, born at Lahore, has lived in England since 1974 and has an English wife. He became a British citizen in July, and last month played for his adopted country in the world team championship in New Zealand. The forthcoming British National Championships, the first for which Jahan has been eligible, put him in a difficult position. Jahan is a genial, sensitive and responsible man and a widely experienced professional. By nature and background he is better equipped than anyone else to achieve a rapport between the game's dominant coaches - Anglo-Saxon and Pakistani. For all these reasons he has long been one of the most respected and prominent officers of the International Squash Players' Association.

This last point identifies one of three obvious causes for Jahan's dilemma. The ISPA consider that the Sheffield Prize Fund - a total of £8,000 for the men, of which the winner takes £1,350 - is less than it should be for the national championship. Should such an influential ISPA officer as Jahan condone this alleged injustice by competing?

It could reasonably be argued that the title is more important than the money and that in the present economic climate the prize fund is as much as can be expected. But the ISPA have a policy aimed to set some extent Jahan represent that policy.



Jahan: best player

The other, more pressing problems for Jahan, were posed by opposing schools of thought within the British game. Some thought he needed to compete in order to prove that he was Britain's best player. Others considered that, whatever the rules said, the championship should be restricted to players of British parentage - a line of thinking that must exclude Jahan. In this situation there was no way in which he could satisfy everyone.

Jahan has already proved beyond doubt that he is a better player than Briers or Kenyon. In this respect his position recalls that of Jonah Barrington in 1980. Barrington had conflicting allegiances (Irish, Welsh and English) but primarily represented Ireland. He had no great incentive to become British champion and his career was winding down anyway. But Barrington was needed in order to prove that at the age of 39 he was still British number one. He did so, beating Kenyon and Briers in consecutive matches.

All things considered, Jahan's decision reflects more credit on him than it does on a vocal minority who want to use it to advance this or that petty point of view.

Barrington's biography



Barrington: refuses to be shackled by conventions

Dramatic life that is stranger than fiction

The astonishing story of Jonah Barrington, one of the greatest of all British sportsmen, has been plainly but admirably told in *Jonah* by Ross Reynolds and Michael Emery (188 smartly produced pages published by J M Dent at £8.95).

The word "plainly" is a compliment to the authors. But truth be told, they realized that such improbably dramatic material did not need dressing up in fancy phrases. The book bears the subtitle "Official Biography" because Barrington himself was closely associated with its preparation and editing. The ring of truth resounds throughout, as this reviewer can personally testify. But truth be told, indeed stranger than fiction, *Jonah* is reminiscent of Antonia Fraser's biography of Mary Queen of Scots in that, had it been fictional, any publisher might reasonably have rejected the book on the grounds that its story was incredible.

Let us consider merely the bare bones of the tale. Barrington had a nervous breakdown at Cheltenham College and later went much of the way towards becoming an alcoholic before he was sent down from Trinity University. But he turned himself into an ascetic and a world champion in spite of the fact that he made a late start in competitive squash and, except in terms of character, was not particularly gifted to excel at it.

As the authors point out: "Most people are congenitally unable to change their character after having passed through their formative years and it is one of *Jonah's* more impressive achievements that he managed to do so." Barrington changed himself physically, too. The details of his new life-style and severe regimen of training and practice make awesome reading.

He was tampering with nature, challenging the apparent frontiers of his strength and stamina and skill. He went too far and in his middle 30s was sharply reminded that, although he had asked no more of his body than was possible, he had asked more than was wise. Physically, he was suddenly in decline.

At the peak of his career this extraordinary, many-sided man had a romantic but briefly scandalous liaison with his present wife, whose first marriage was then breaking down. A worrying challenge of a different kind was his brittle on-

court relationship with an Australian rival, Cameron Nancarrow. This culminated in a Johannesburg shower room when Barrington waded into Nancarrow with his fists.

Barrington respects the conventions but refuses to be shackled by them. He has mostly lived his life on the side of the angels but has never been entirely free from the devil within. The authors tell the truth about that. Barrington has qualities found only in great men - flaws included. He was and is that uncommon creature, a practical visionary: a man who can dream dreams and make them happen and, at the same time, open windows in the minds of everyone around him.

The seeds were always there: planted deeply in history. Barrington's gentle but often eccentric family had links with the sea, the Army, politics, and possibly the Welsh princes. He probably inherited strength of character from his Welsh mother and a quirky, teasing, and an enthusiastic military historian with an obsessive veneration for Napoleon.

As you may reasonably assume from all this, the Barrington story is peopled by unusual characters and enlivened by strange stories. The authors have bound all the threads neatly together and, in the process, have achieved a balanced portrayal of an extraordinary man. The book begins with an endnote even better, with a summing up that includes an absorbing insight into what Barrington and his chief rival, Geoff Hunt, thought of each other. There is an implied distinction between the most successful player, Hunt, the greatest - Hashim Khan, Azam Khan, or Barrington?

This Barrington biography has the cheek to end with a hint that Azam may have been the greatest of them all. Full marks for impartiality. The authors have not written a good book about the most remarkable man I have ever known.

Rex Bellamy

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Personal Assistant to the Chairman

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This is an exceptional opportunity for an executive secretary to join a progressive and highly successful international computing services organisation with a turnover approaching £20M and employing over 650 staff. The person appointed will be required to cope with a wide variety of work and to make use of the latest office automation technology which has recently been installed.

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This role requires impeccable secretarial and administrative skills, and minimum current shorthand and typing speeds of 110/70w.p.m. respectively. Experience of audio and word processing is essential. The ability to deal with a wide range of people in a diplomatic and authoritative manner is important and we are seeking a calm, friendly and charming personality.

It is unlikely that individuals under 28 will have sufficient experience, ideally in a variety of small to large organisations, or the high degree of initiative and self-motivation required to run the office in the Chairman's frequent absence. Some flexibility will also be expected in the hours of work.

A negotiable salary will be offered, together with excellent company benefits and a pleasant working environment with a highly professional company close to Waterloo station.

Please write in confidence, enclosing full CV or telephone for further information: Jane Comben, Senior Personnel Officer, BIS Group Head Office, 7th Floor, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7UT. Telephone 01-633 0866.

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This firm has been appointed to one of the eleven consultancies offered by the Department of the Environment for the completion of the listing survey of England. We hold the consultancy for Shropshire and Staffordshire, and now seek four full-time fieldworkers for thirty-six and twenty-one month period appointments.

The successful applicants will be required to inspect and report on buildings of special architectural and/or historic interest and prepare draft revised statutory lists for approval by the Department of the Environment in accordance with a prescribed procedure and programme of work.

Candidates should possess a thorough working knowledge of English architectural styles from medieval times onwards, but preference will be given to those who additionally have a specialist knowledge of the lesser domestic buildings of these Counties. It is essential that applicants should have a car, for which an allowance is payable. Salary: starting at £8,154 with annual increments and terminal bonus.

Candidates should apply in writing, with full curriculum vitae, to the above address, no later than 5th December, 1983.

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An international Mayfair bank seeks a PA to their Marketing Manager. He is responsible for promoting all the services and facilities available to their clients. You should be educated to 'A' level standard with 100/50 skills.

PA TO THE CHAIRMAN - c.£11,000

Our client the Chairman of a very well established large public company seeks a top PA/Secretary. You will have your own areas of responsibility and should have a solid senior level background and minimum skills of 100/50.

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A top firm of W1 Estate Agents seeks a PA/Secretary to their Director of Investments. He is keen to delegate and would like a committed person to get involved and develop a full PA role. 100/50 skills needed.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

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£7,750 - £8,250 West London

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Ideally we are seeking a candidate with several years' sound secretarial experience who can thrive under pressure and has a flair for dealing with people at all levels as well as being a first-class administrator and organiser.

For further details, please contact: Vivienne Watson, Audits of Great Britain Limited, The AGB Research Centre, West Gate, London, W5 1UA.

AGB

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

AP3 £7,398 - £8,139 p.a. inclusive

The Director of Marketing is seeking a person aged 23+ to provide him with secretarial/administrative support in this interesting and varied position.

In addition to usual secretarial duties other tasks include acting as Associate Membership Secretary for The Society, which involves writing news letters and organising own correspondence. Applicants should have a high level of technical skills, and be educated to 'O' level standard in English Language and Maths. Shorthand would be an advantage but is not essential as most work would be from audio transcripts.

Three years experience of working at a senior level is essential together with a friendly personality and the ability to communicate effectively at all levels.

For further details and application form please telephone Miss Pocha, Assistant Personnel Officer on 01-636 5020 extension 280.

Secretary/PA to Chairman

Young chairman of rapidly growing public company involved in executive selection and recruitment advertising requires a Secretary/PA to assume responsibility for secretarial, administrative and organisational matters.

Applicants should be accustomed to working in a hectic environment at Senior Management level. WP experience would be an advantage. An attractive remuneration and benefits package will be offered. It is unlikely that anyone currently earning less than £8,500 p.a. will have the maturity and experience required for the position.

Written applications only including a detailed curriculum vitae should be marked "Private and Confidential" and addressed to: Nicole de Beaumont, Michael Page Partnership PLC, 31 Southampton Row, London, WC1B 5HT

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chair, garage.
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conveniently built and airpor-
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A and good state close by.

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(even & w'ends)
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3. 1/2 acre period house, 3 carv-
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well equipped ind/breakfast
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set back from road.

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Semi-det. 3 bdr, 2 recep, 55-year.
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Plot frontage x 152ft x 24ft. Best
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11 miles walk to station to
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Epsom - 35 mins, A 6 mins walk to
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